

HISTORY
OF
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BY
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A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT
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MABEL McDOWELL
(as a young girl)



MABEL McDOWELL
(August, 1975)

This Bicentennial book is dedicated to the oldest living native of Liberty Township, Mrs. Mabel G. (Snyder) McDowell of State College, who was a centennial-year-baby.

Mrs. McDowell, one of five children of Henry and Susan (Linn) Snyder, was born in Blanchard on July 31, 1876. Mabel's father, whose first job was store clerk in Beech Creek, closed his career in a similar manner--operating a small store in Blanchard. Meantime, however, he had served as a railroad station clerk, justice of the peace and postmaster. Her mother, a descendant of the first Linn family of Liberty Township, was raised at Beech Creek. As a girl Mabel attended the school of Blanchard and the Liberty Baptist Church and Sunday school.

On June 28, 1900, Mabel Gertrude Snyder, then living with her parents in the residence now occupied by Mrs. Tillie Spangler, and Milton S. McDowell were united in marriage by Rev. A. P. Wharton. The McDowells settled in State College, where Mr. McDowell was a member of the college staff. In 1941 he retired as Director of Agriculture Extension and died in 1958, just two weeks before his eighty-seventh birthday.

The McDowells raised four children, three of whom are living in State College. Mrs. McDowell's life, and that of her youngest daughter, were both miraculously saved in 1913 by a delicate surgical process that was rare at that time. Over the years Mrs. McDowell has fondly reminisced of the good times she had as a girl in Liberty Township. Particularly remembered are the square dances and roller skating parties of her day. We salute Mrs. McDowell as an outstanding native of our township.

Liberty Township is situated in beautiful Bald Eagle Valley, right in the heart of Pennsylvania. It is a part of Centre County and includes not only the lowlands adjacent to its three main streams, but extends far into rolling hills, some cultivated, some wooded, and majestic mountains that would enhance the beauty of any area.

The southern border of Liberty Township follows the Bald Eagle Mountain Range, and is identical to the first government surveys, which were later used in making land grants to officers of the Revolutionary War. The eastern and northeastern boundaries follow Beech Creek stream, which has been a dividing line between townships and/or counties since the latter 1700's. The western border is represented by the dividing line between Howard and Liberty Townships, about which more information will be included in a subsequent paragraph. Marsh Creek flows southeasterly through the middle of the township.

Nature had equipped this spot very well for its industrial and recreational activities, some of which were practiced by the Indians long before the first white settlers came. These activities include farming, lumbering, fishing, hunting, mining, quarrying, canoeing and boating, swimming, camping, and skating and sledding. The recent construction of Sayers Dam on Bald Eagle Creek, right in the center of the township has expanded recreational activities to a position unrivalled anywhere else in Pennsylvania. This dam was named for Liberty Township's Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Foster Joseph Sayers.

The Sayers Dam undertaking was financed by the Federal Government primarily as a flood control device, but with recreation, water quality control and other purposes in mind. The total cost of the entire project including maintenance to April 25, 1975, was thirty-one million dollars. Estimates provided by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on that date indicated that the project had already saved forty-three and one half million dollars in damages downstream.

The dam itself is about one and a third miles long with a top surface twenty-five feet wide. At normal levels it provides a reservoir of water covering 1730 acres extending all the way through adjoining Howard Township almost to the recently restored birthplace of Pennsylvania's Civil War governor, Andrew Gregg Curtin. The lake area forms a semi-circle around the

AERIAL VIEW OF SAYERS DAM



town of Howard. With the gates closed for flood emergencies the reservoir covers an area of 3450 acres at spillway level.

The water area of Sayers Dam and much of the surrounding land are under control of the Commonwealth and together comprise what is known as Bald Eagle State Park. At its full potential this park will accommodate many tent and trailer campers and their families, hordes of picnickers, swimmers, hikers, snowmobile and toboggan enthusiasts and a multitude of boaters and water skiers. The twenty-three-mile shore line should permit each of hundreds of fishermen to select his favorite "hole."

Nearby in Marsh Creek Valley is the headquarters of the Liberty Township Sportman's Club. This complex provides for year-round activities such as game feeding, marksman competition including the use of muzzle loaders, snowmobile racing and miscellaneous, diversified events, both indoors and out. It features a large mobile camping area supported by necessary facilities.

Liberty Township is traversed from east to west by U. S. Highway Route 220, which runs southward from New York State to Rockingham, South Carolina. Route 220 from Blanchard to Milesburg was moved farther north to higher ground when Sayers Dam was built. The major portion of Route 220 is being developed as the Appalachian Throughway. State Route 364 affords a scenic drive through the mountainous area of Beech Creek Valley to the Liberty Township community of Monument and her neighboring town Orviston in Curtin Township.

A branch division of the Woolrich Woolen Mills, established in a modern building in Blanchard several years ago, is the township's only sizeable industry. At peak periods this plant employs about 150 workers in sewing and supporting occupations.

The reservoir of the Beech Creek Water Company, built in 1937 in Eagleville Gap, supplies water to Blanchard, Beech Creek and the surrounding area.

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Liberty Township became a reality by an order of the Centre County Court at its August Session in the year 1845. In May, 1844, fifteen months earlier, a recognizable number of residents of the eastern half of Howard Township had presented a petition seeking their own township. To form this new township, Howard Township was divided near the middle by a line running generally north and south. The western half retained the Howard Township name, while the new township on the east side was named "Liberty." No particular reason has been given for the selection



BLANCHARD RESERVOIR

of this name. However, all of us like to believe that liberty, such as had been proclaimed in 1776, and insured in the ensuing years, was greatly responsible for the selection.

The national census, taken in 1850 by an enumerator who covered both Howard and Liberty Townships, indicated a total population of 387 for the new township. However, this figure did not include the more than 200 residents of Liberty Township who were erroneously listed as living in Howard

Township. It might be interesting to note here that in 1850 the township had fifty-nine farmers and twenty-five laborers who likely were doing farm work, woods work or sawmill work. There were four canal boatmen, four shoemakers, three blacksmiths and two carpenters. Just one worker was occupied by each of the following trades: plasterer, gunsmith, collier, cooper and wagon maker. The population in 1860 was 748; in 1870, 1062; in 1880, 1284 including 563 who lived in Blanchard; and in 1890, 1244, a slight decrease from the previous decade. The population today stands at about 1250.

BLANCHARD RESERVOIR

The present Liberty Township area was a part of Lower Bald Eagle Township, Mifflin County, when that county was formed on September 19, 1789. Prior to that, and at the time of the American Revolution, the Liberty Township area was a part of Bald Eagle Township, Northumberland County, which was formed on March 11, 1772. When Centre County was formed by an act approved on February 13, 1800, the present Liberty Township



territory was a part of Centre Township. At that time Centre Township included the subdivisions we know today as Curtin Township, Howard Boro, Howard Township, Liberty Township, Marion Township and Walker Township.

From the time of its formation in 1800, and until Clinton County was erected in 1839, Centre County extended all the way to the edge of Flemington, then a part of Lycoming County. At that time the Susquehanna River formed much of the northeastern boundary of Centre County. The entire portion of Centre County that lay east of Centre Township was then called Bald Eagle Township and included the following present-day political subdivisions of Clinton County: Bald Eagle Township, Beech Creek Boro, Beech Creek Township, Lamar Township, Mill Hall Boro and Porter Township.

EARLY SETTLERS

The first tax assessment list for the new township of Centre in the new County, also named Centre, was submitted by the township's first assessor, John McCalamont, who likely lived in the Jacksonville area. The assessments were approved on February 28 of the same year by John Hall, David Barr and Matthew Allison, the first commissioners of Centre County. Their approval was attested by William Kerr, chief clerk.

Some of the names on the first assessment list for Centre Township have a very familiar sound. For example, Thomas Askey (sometimes called Erskine) was taxed for 250 acres of land. Thomas, a Revolutionary War lieutenant, is the ancestor of the Liberty Township Askeys of today. Other taxpayers from the eastern part of the township included David DeLong, John Gardner, Daniel Kunes, the Liggets, the Marsdens (now spelled Masden), James McGhee, Christian Nestlerode, the Bechdels, Simon Rorabaugh, some of the Pletchers, and some of the Schencks.

Apparently the first officers of Centre County and of Centre Township were appointed to serve just until an election could be held. After one year County Commissioners Hall and Allison had been replaced by Christopher Henney and James Green, and a new assessor, Joseph Steere, was serving in Centre Township. Then in 1803 Richard Gunsallus became Centre Township assessor and served until 1808, at which time he was replaced by David Bechdel. Gunsallus was born at Minisink, New York, from which place he had entered the Revolutionary War. Richard and his wife, Stachee Ann (Lucas) Gunsallus, are buried at Sand Hill Cemetery, just off Route 220, about two miles west of Howard.

In those early days taxes were levied against the ownership of land, horses, cows, commercial property such as stores, sawmills, tanyards, stills, grist mills, work shops, fulling mills, etc. Houses were listed only in conjunction with lots, and barns were never mentioned. At various times taxes were levied against such items as gold watches, money-at-interest, and collateral inheritances. Almost every family had at least one cow and one horse. Single working men were taxed for their occupations only. Assessors were paid one dollar "per full day of work." A full day of work likely meant twelve hours.

For the year 1828 each assessor was assigned the additional duty of listing the names of destitute families not in possession of a Bible and the language spoken by these particular families. Then in what was described as a "benevolent undertaking" the Philadelphia Bible Society, with the cooperation of the Commonwealth presented a free copy of the "Holy Scriptures" to each family fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to qualify. No record can be found of any Bible recipients who lived in Liberty Township. However, across Beech Creek Stream in neighboring Bald Eagle Township free Bibles were presented to the families of Benjamin Johnson, John Lannen, William DeHaas and James Miller. A regular duty of each assessor was to list the parents of school children who were too poor to buy textbooks. The children's names and ages appeared on the assessment records along with the names of the parents. Textbooks for these children were provided by the township.

David Bechdel, Centre Township's fourth assessor, was a son of Christian Bechdel (Sr.), who had bought land from Eleanor DeHaas, widow of General John Philip DeHaas, of Philadelphia on April 16, 1793, for the sum of "two hundred pounds specie of gold or silver coin" (Mifflin County Will Book B, Page 416). The specific tract of land extended from Bald Eagle Creek northward on the western side of Marsh Creek. It included the area now owned by W. Francis Smith, a Bechdel descendant.

In that same year of 1793, Christian Bechdel (Sr.) sold his last remaining land in York County. Then he and his wife, Mary (Schneiderm) Bechdel, and three of their four sons came to Bald Eagle Valley. In addition to David, the sons who accompanied their parents were Christian (II) and Jacob, both of whom later married Leathers sisters. At least two of Christian's daughters came to Centre County. They were Susan, wife of Frederick Schenck and Nancy, wife of John Bower. Christian had another son, Samuel, who remained in York County. Present day Bechdels of this area descend from either David or Christian (II), because Jacob and wife and their ten children moved to Amanda Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, some time before 1819.

It is written that Christian Nestlerode of Lancaster County was attracted to Liberty Township because of the excellent fishing. Perhaps true, but Christian and his descendants were soon engaged in thriving timbering and sawmill operations that lasted over one hundred years. Nestlerode's first land, acquired before Centre County was formed, extended from Bald Eagle northward along the west side of Beech Creek stream. Susanna Nestlerode, one of Christian's fourteen children, married John Bitner, also from Lancaster County. All the Bitners of this area today descend from this intermarriage.

Daniel Kunes came to Liberty Township before 1800 and later brought his father Daniel Kunes (Sr.), a Revolutionary soldier, to the area. Daniel (Jr.) married Hannah Rorabaugh, daughter of Simon and Eve (Reed) Rorabaugh, who lived here as early as 1794. Daniel and Hannah raised a large family on the farm that later passed into the hands of their youngest son, Christian. In more recent years this same farm was occupied by Edgar T. Bechdel, followed by his son Thompson Bechdel.

The early Marsdens were John, Justus and John, Jr. John and Justus had acquired jointly their first land in Bald Eagle Valley in 1788. John (Sr.) had served in the Revolutionary War. John, Jr., served in the War of 1812. Our present-day Masdens descend from these early settlers.

Research reveals that most, if not all, of the Gardners in the Liberty Township-Howard area descend from John and Nancy (Thorn-ton) Gardner who settled on an island in Bald Eagle Creek that came to be called Gardner Island. The first DeLongs were David, who came as early as 1774, Jonathan, who was here prior to 1788, and George, from whom there are records dated 1781. Later there were several intermarriages among the DeLongs and Gardners.

Clearly Campbell, the Revolutionary War lieutenant who made history, not so much from military fame, but more as a likeable, but lazy character, may have never lived in Liberty Township. However, it seems certain that he made many trips through the township enroute from his former home in lower Bald Eagle Valley to the home of his daughters on upper Marsh Creek. Cleary's daughter Sarah married James McCloskey, and after his death, Jonathan DeLong. His daughter Margaret married Jonathan's brother, John DeLong. Cleary Campbell died on Marsh Creek in 1809. In addition to his earlier descendants of the name Campbell, McCloskey and DeLong, he had many others including some of the Brickleys, Pletchers, Spanglers, Kuneses and Wagners.

Before being granted citizenship by the county court on August 23, 1808, James McGhee had lived here at least five years, a requirement of the law. Mr. McGhee and his wife Hannah (Worden) McGhee occupied land between the present-day farm of Harry

Glossner and Beech Creek stream. The late Dr. Saylor J. McGhee of Lock Haven and the late Dr. Harrison J. McGhee of Kane were descendants. Patrick Linn, another Centre Countian, who lived nearby in Bald Eagle Township, and who may have been the father of Liberty Township's Andrew Linn (Sr.), was admitted to citizenship just two days after McGhee. Two years earlier Matthew Leitch, another Irish immigrant, had gained his citizenship. Later James McGhee's son John married Andrew Linn's daughter Elizabeth and raised a family in the township.

The early naturalization records of Centre County also reveal that Thomas Bowes, a native of Ireland, became a citizen on October 6, 1806. Thomas, who lived in the western portion of Howard Township, is the ancestor of all our Liberty Township Boweses.

(References to Liberty Township in this report mean the present geographical confines of the township even though at the particular time involved the township may have been a part of a larger township. For example, when it is stated that James McGhee of Liberty Township was naturalized in 1808, it means he was a resident of the present Liberty Township territory that in 1808 was a part of Centre Township.)

The Ligget brothers, Absalom, George and John, came to Liberty Township from Washington County, Maryland, having previously lived in Virginia. Reliable reports show that when they came, around the time of the American Revolution, they brought with them several of their slaves. The last local surviving member of this clan was John Ligget, who died in Beech Creek in 1914.

The Reverend Michael Schenck (Sr.), a Mennonite minister, who had come from Lancaster County some time before 1800, may have settled a little west of what is now Liberty Township. However, many of his descendants had soon established their residence in Liberty Township. In like manner the Pletchers and Holters had first settled west of Liberty Township, but soon spread into this township. The Smith and DeHaas families present a somewhat similar situation. These families were living in surrounding townships for many years before any of them actually resided in Liberty Township.

From 1801 to 1810, the year in which the name of Centre Township was changed to Howard Township and a section removed to form Walker Township, a number of additional families came to Liberty Township. Among the settlers of this period we find James Clark, Philip Confer, Jacob and Magdalene Runner, Mathias Wagner (sometimes spelled Waggoner), Frederick, Henry and Christopher Long, several Lucas families, Jacob Boone, William Thompson and one John Thompson. Also Michael and Mary (Helman) Brickley.

SETTLEMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

Blanchard was the first sizeable community in Liberty Township and has always been the largest. In 1832, according to Linn's History, it was laid out in town lots by Dr. Roberts and Solomon Strong and called Eagleville, and at that time Michael Brickley (husband of Mary Helman Brickley and ancestor of all area Brickleys) built the first house. In 1869 Simon Lingle recorded at the Centre County Court House his plans for the development of the eastern portion of Eagleville. Shortly thereafter the name of the town was changed to Blanchard in honor of a Centre County attorney who assisted in regaining a post office for the townspeople. The post office "Eagleville" had been lost to Eagleville, Montgomery County, when it was decided that their office had been established first.



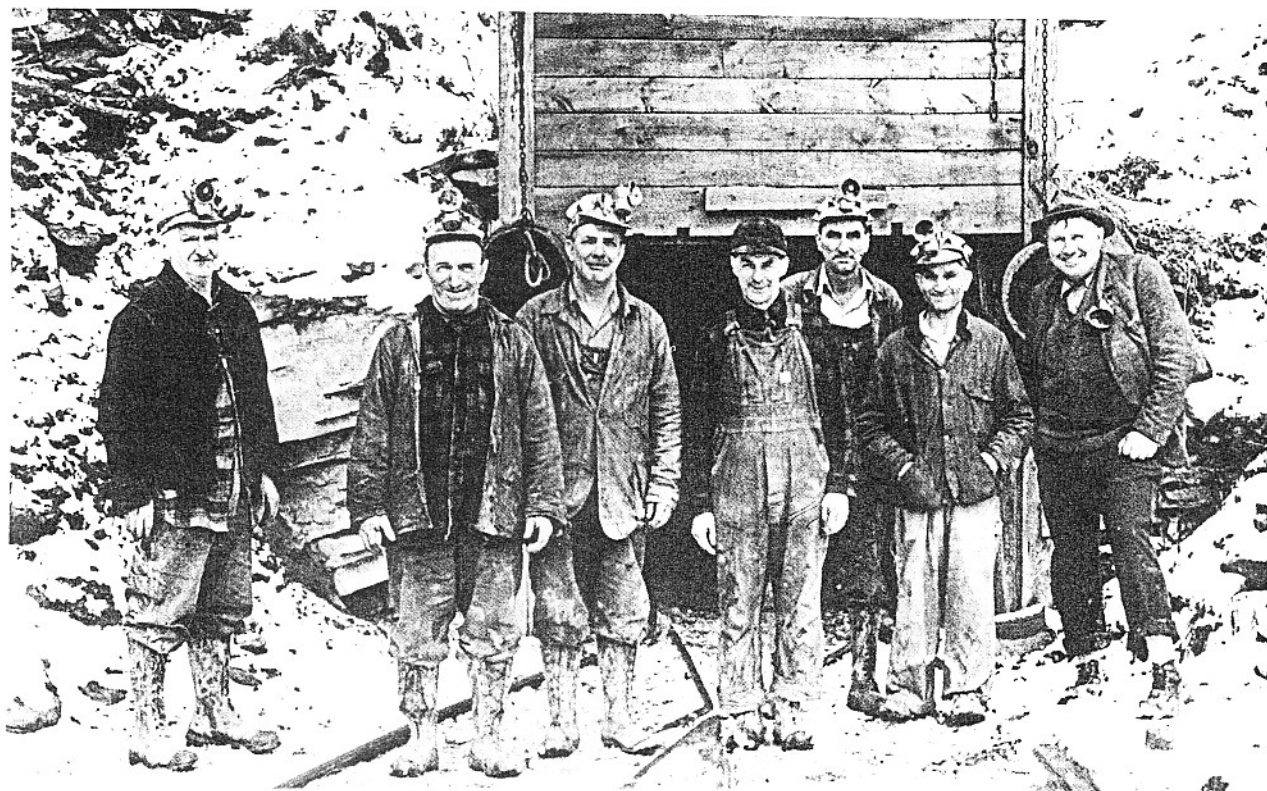
our Station

The settlement near the Bald Eagle Railroad south of Blanchard came to be known as Eagleville Station. However, as Blanchard gradually shed its original name "Eagleville", and later with the passing of railroad freight, passenger and track maintenance quarters from the scene, the word Station has generally been dropped with the name "Eagleville" remaining. In recent years a trailer court development and a home-building surge have resulted in a sizeable residential area a short distance east of Blanchard proper.

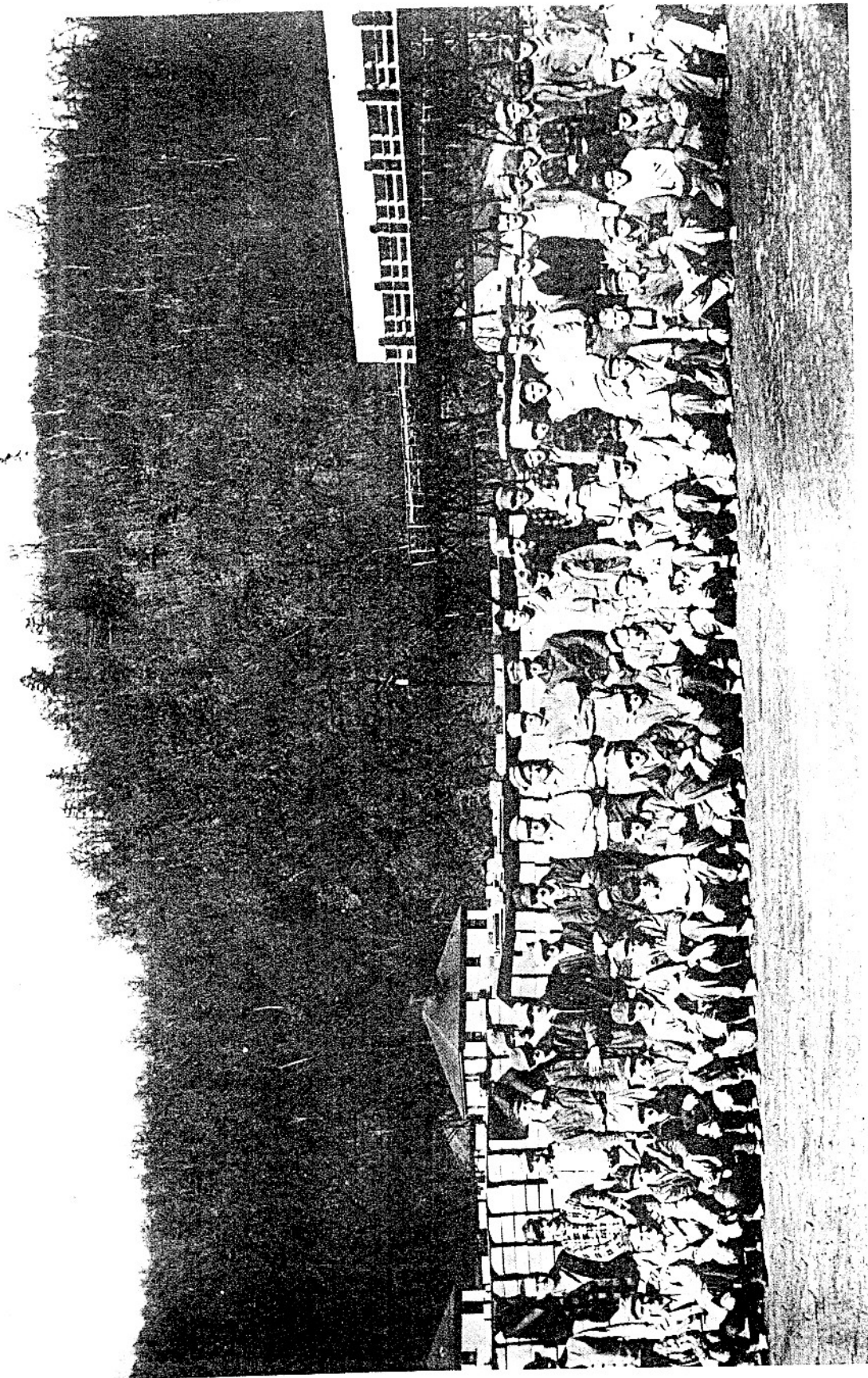
Liberty Township's second largest community, Monument, named for a monument-like rock in nearby Beech Creek Stream, was established around 1900 with the development of clay and coal deposits in the adjacent mountainous area of Clinton County. A fire brick manufacturing plant was erected along the tracks of the Beech Creek Railroad, which line had been built less than twenty years



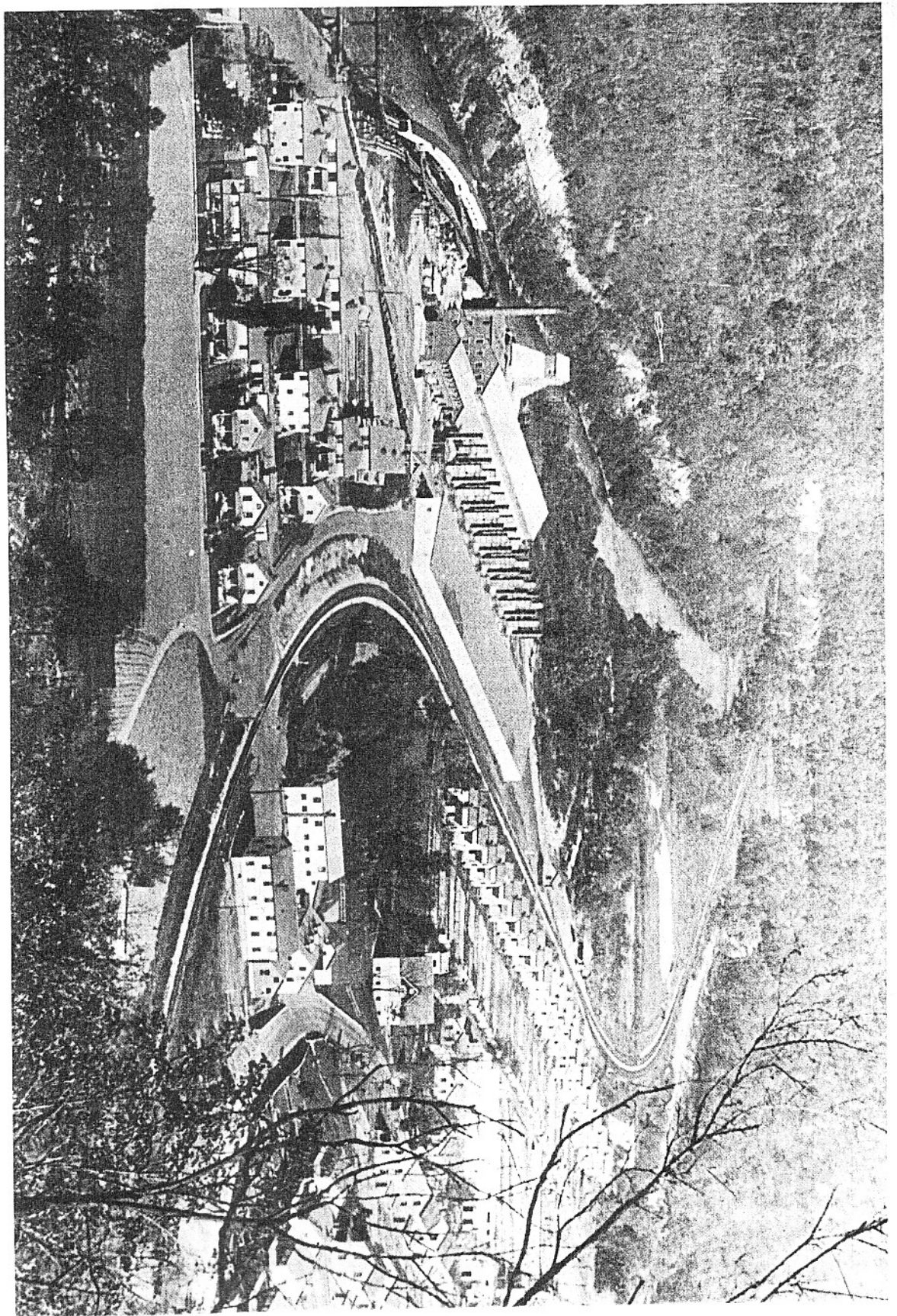
MONUMENT SCHOOL GROUP 1922-23



MONUMENT MINE



HARRISON WALKER REFRACTORIES SHORTLY AFTER W W II



MONUMENT
(approximately 50 years ago)

earlier. Simultaneously houses and other living quarters were constructed in the narrow valley area near to the plant. The clay was transported by small, donkey-pulled cars over narrow guage tracks down the mountain and across the creek to the plant. Transportation in and out of this compact town in the early days was almost one hundred percent by rail, especially during the winter months. The male coauthor of this story recalls that, as a small boy, his first trip to Monument was by train, and his second trip was by horse and wagon.

During the period of the 1860's the families of Patrick Cushin, John Maney, Torrance Reedy and Patrick Reardon, immigrant track workers from Ireland and the family of George Regal, also a track worker, developed a settlement west of Eagleville Station, between the railroad and Bald Eagle Creek, across from the mouth of Hunters Run.

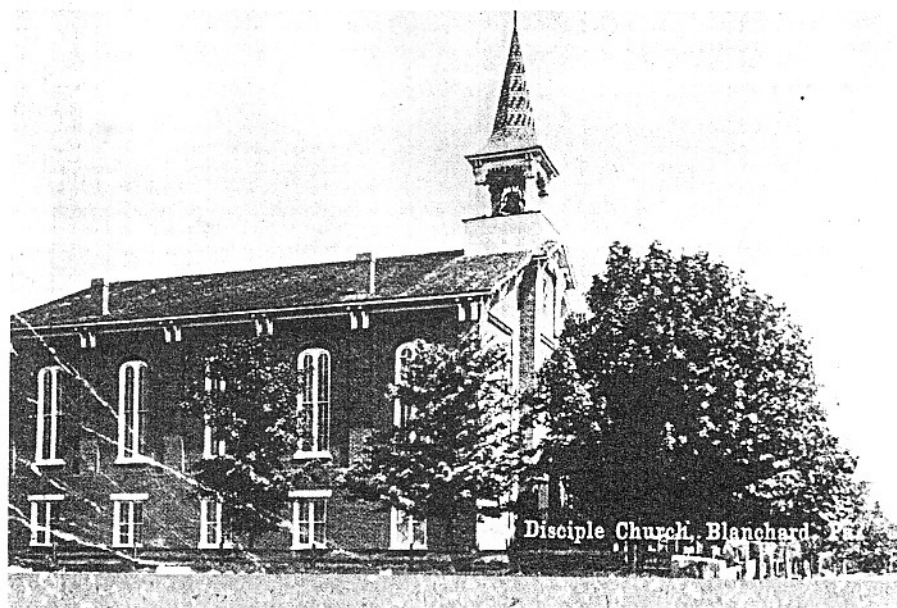
In 1871 John T. Fowler erected the first of his three large saw mills on Marsh Creek in Liberty Township "within three miles of Eagleville." By 1880 this mill was producing twenty-five to thirty thousand feet of lumber daily. The settlement that sprang up around the mill became known as Fowlers Mills. At the time of the 1880 census enumeration Fowlers Mills had seventy-five inhabitants, including William T. Fowler, a brother of John. William married Mary Runner, a local girl, in 1882 and continued his residence in the township after the mill and the settlement had disappeared. Fowler's second mill was located in Curtin Township and his third mill at the western end of Centre County later became a flag stop on the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad called "Fowler Station."

CHURCHES

Blanchard Church of Christ

This church was one of many churches organized by evangelist Nathan Johns Mitchell, who was born in western Pennsylvania in 1808, spent his boyhood and early manhood in Ohio, took up the ministry at a young age, preached the gospel in several mid-western states, and came to Bald Eagle Valley in 1832. According to Linn's History, Joseph J. Lingle, Orin T. Noble, Esq., Austin Leonard, John Bechdel, Joseph M. DeHaas, Daniel Bitner and Vincent Smith were among the early members of Rev. Mitchell's Blanchard congregation.

Rev. Mitchell married Sarah B. Packer of Howard, whose father, James, had died when she was just three years old. After the death of Sarah's mother in 1839 the Mitchells moved into the Packer homestead, which served as headquarters for Mr. Mitchell's work. Four years later Mr. Mitchell began a legal clerkship in the office of the State Attorney General, William F. Packer, his



brother-in-law, who later became governor of the Commonwealth. After eighteen months the Mitchells returned to the valley to resume their evangelistic work.

By 1867 the Blanchard congregation had outgrown the church building. On March 13 of that year a decision was made to begin a new structure on the opposite side of the road. Then, under the direction of a three-man building committee composed of Thomas H. Martin, himself a carpenter in Clinton County, William H. Fearon, son of John and Sarah Fearon and husband of Elizabeth Bechdel, and Abraham Bitner, son of the first Bitner settler and husband of Mary Leathers, the project was undertaken. In February, 1869, a two-story edifice with a veneer of locally-made, sun-dried, open-kiln-baked bricks, forty-eight by seventy feet, was completed.

In 1877 Rev. Mitchell published his autobiography depicting the "Life and Travels (and hardships) of a Pioneer Preacher." At one point in his book Mr. Mitchell digressed from the story of his very own life and preachings to describe a memorable experience with a Liberty Township family. He consumed one and one-half pages to tell of an incident involving Paul and Simon Lingle, father and son. Then when his book was published he presented a copy to Simon Lingle. This particular copy is now in possession of the Lingles who composed this history. Mr. Mitchell, after spending most of the last few years of his semi-retired life at Howard, died on December 10, 1886, at the home of his daughter, Charity N. Leathers (wife of Nathan M.) in

Lock Haven. Incidentally, Charity's husband was a namesake of her own father. Charity's mother-in-law was a sister of the Bitner brothers, John, Abraham and Daniel, early pillars of the church, and also Christian, a stalwart in the early church of the same denomination at Salona. Without any doubt more children were named for Rev. Mitchell than for any other person in the valley.

In 1928 a one-story addition was constructed at the rear of the church with kitchen and banquet facilities that could be utilized as Sunday school space, and a basement area beneath for central heating equipment. Then in 1955 this addition was virtually replaced by a well-designed, three-story annex to provide larger Sunday school rooms, a baptistry and an office for the minister.

The first regular minister after Mr. Mitchell was L. B. Hyatt, who was here as early as November, 1858, at which time he witnessed the marriage of William Kunes, son of Samuel S. and Elizabeth (Chatham) Kunes, and Fanny Bechdel, daughter of John and Sarah (DeLong) Bechdel, at Mr. Mitchell's home in Howard. During his pastorate at Blanchard Mr. Hyatt, in the 1860's, organized the church at Romola. Later he preached the first sermon in the present Blanchard building. Following Mr. Hyatt were J. M. Streeter, William S. Lloyd, and William A. Ridge, who while teaching school, had done part-time ministerial work as early as 1863. Then came Charles S. Long, Matthew S. Blair and J. P. Findley, who also held church services at "Confers school house", which is not identified at this time. Findley was followed by T. C. Jackson, Mr. Blair, M. C. Frick and H. J. Dudley. In 1904 Emma Frick, daughter of Rev. Frick and his wife Harriet Simmons Frick, married Harry C. Kunes, a son of the couple whose marriage is mentioned above. The Kuneses raised a large family in Blanchard.

Rev. Mitchell, his wife, Sarah, and ten other members of their family are buried at the Packer Cemetery along new Route 220, near the Howard intersection.

The following ministers have served since the pastorate of H. J. Dudley:

W. H. Patterson	1907-1912	David Neilson	1927-1940
S. J. McCracken	1912-1913	M. S. Rogers	1940-1946
J. Linkletter	1913-1915	Ralph Clark	1946-1948
Walter L. Dudley	1915-1920	Frank M. Baim	1948-1958
Charles A. Hatfield	1921-1922	James Brown	1959-1965
T. C. Horn	1922-1924	Glenn E. Barton	1965-1968
Harry D. Wheaton	1925-1927	Geo. W. Haden, Jr.	1969-19--

Blanchard Baptist Church



The site now occupied by this church was previously the location of a church building that had been shared by the Lutheran and the Reformed sects. The Reformed group had been organized by Rev. W. R. Yearick, who also organized a church up Marsh Creek at about the same time. He was followed by preachers Foy and Moore. Early members included the Glossners, Ruperts and Lighthamers. The Lutherans, of whom little or no information was kept, actually outlasted the Reformed organization and gained sole occupancy of the building.

Very early in 1871 a visiting minister, Rev. A. B. Runyan, came to Blanchard. Through his zealous efforts the present Liberty Baptist Church was organized on

February 23 of that year, having acquired the building described above. The following members formed a nucleus of the first congregation: William F. Courter, John A. Stover, William and Joseph Kunes, Richard Runner, Joseph Bumgardner and Charles Courter. The first deacons were Mr. Stover, William F. Courter and N. H. Lucas. A fast-growing congregation soon found that the building was too small and unsuitable. A new building was started in April, 1872, and completed by September of the same year. Rev. W. A. Biggart became the first regular minister.

On February 12, 1873, William A. Ridge, who had been a minister of the Blanchard Church of Christ, was ordained as a Baptist minister. Accompanying Mr. Ridge to his pastorate at Liberty Baptist was a number of leading members of his former church. Under Mr. Ridge the Baptist Church enjoyed exceptional growth and prosperity by the year 1882. At that time the deacons were Mr. Courter, James Brady and Mr. Stover. Catharine Ridge, wife of the minister, died in 1878 leaving several younger children still at home. On December 11, 1879, Mr. Ridge married Annie E. Shank, widow of W. J. Shank, who had a young son of her own.

Rev. Ridge died in 1885 at age fifty-seven. Many area residents remember Virgil Ridge, son of William and Catharine, whose wife, Annie (Purdy) Ridge, was the daughter of another Baptist minister, William Purdy, and his wife, Catharine (Weight) Purdy. Candace Ridge, older sister of Virgil, married William Rupert, son of Barnard and Elizabeth J. (Hanna) Rupert. Many Rupert descendants live in the area today.

The original frame church building has been kept in a good state of repair. In 1967 a spacious, well-planned addition was completed. This annex provided six additional corridor-connected Sunday school rooms, office space, a more modern kitchen, a banquet room that doubles as a recreation area, and various utility spaces.

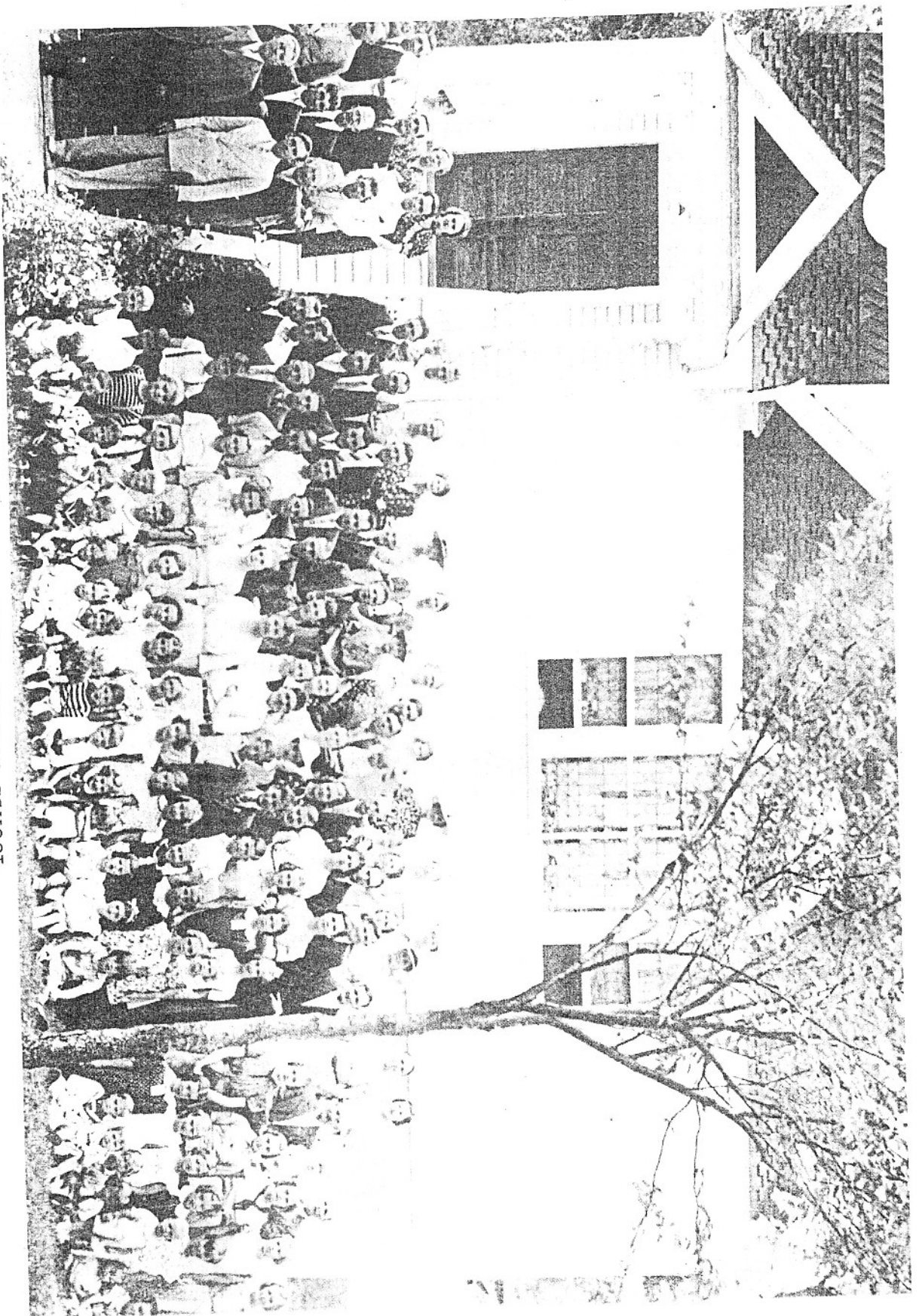
Regular and assistant ministers who have served since the tenure of Rev. Ridge:

Frank L. Bardens	1876-1891	A. G. Herr	1928-1931
F. B. Cross	1891-1892	Charles Mainwaring	1932-1937
H. H. Clark	1892-1892	Harry O. Kline	1939-1941
J. B. Soule	1893-1896	John Shope	1942-1948
Y. L. Eland	1896-1900	B. Y. Aungst	1946-1947
G. S. West	1901-1906	J. Martin Dick	1948-1955
Thomas D. Ware	1907-1908	Paul Levan	1955-1958
B. Eldridge	1909-1911	Ernest V. Liddle	1958-1960
Samuel Clark	1912-1915	Donald E. Maughan	1961-1966
George S. Prentice	1916-1918	Joseph Leichliter	1966-1967
Rev. Thomas	1922-1923	Robert L. Barnes	1969-1974
Rev. Croft	1924-1925	Kenneth Thompson	1972-1973
M. C. Hare	1926-1927	O. C. Metzger	1974-19--

Monument Christian Church

Prior to the erection of a church building in Monument, residents of that community used the school building, the office at the brick plant and private homes for various religious gatherings. The selection likely depended not only on the size of the group, but also on which quarters were available to them at the particular time.

Later, through the efforts of the families of Albert and Anna (Peters) Bergner and Henry and Maud (Bitner) Clark, regular meetings were established in the school building. Then on January 3, 1917, a series of special services were conducted by Rev. James B. Porter of the Flemington Church of Christ. These revival meetings provided a sudden growth of the congregation to sixty-six members. However, official records reveal that by June there were considerable "back-sliders." The church's first regular minister, Garland C. Patterson, served during that same year.



MONUMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL
(approximately 40 years ago)

It appears that from the low point in June of 1917 to June of 1921, during which time W. T. Merrick of the Orviston Christian Church was pastor, there was a noticeable growth. Deacons serving at that time were E. P. Gummo, Lester Orner, Michael Mayes and Paul Miller, with the elders being Harvey Mann, Alva Miller and James Barr. Supply ministers following the departure of Rev. Merrick included L. F. Sheetz of Howard and Charles A. Hatfield of the Blanchard Church of Christ.

On July 14, 1921, a joint meeting with officials of the Mill Hall church resulted in the sharing of their minister, James A. Agnew, for a short period. However, two months later, to the very day, a decision of considerably more importance was made. At that time approval was given for the construction of a house of worship, and a building committee of five members was appointed. When the new sanctuary was dedicated in 1922, it seems reasonable to assume, the name of Hamilton Stewart was mentioned many times. Mr. Stewart, an official of Harbison-Walker, who had provided major financial support for the building, was observing his sugar interests in Cuba when the dedication ceremonies were held.

Ministers serving since Mr. Agnew have been:

T. C. Horn	1922-1924	Robert DeBoer	1937-1943
M. J. Johnson	1924-1925	Wilfred Booth	1943-1946
P. Baldwin	1925-1926	C. H. Kulp	1946-1953
John W. Tyndall	1926-1926	Paul F. Lilly	1954-1966
Harry E. Martin	1928-1934	Glenn Barton	1966-1967
William H. Long	1934-1937	William Robert Thompson	1967-1971
	Harry L. Mullican	1972-19--	

Faith Chapel

The Hunters Run Methodist Church was organized about 1856 and called Runner's Church for the Runner families of the area. At that time the name of Joseph Hall, husband of Sally Schenck, appeared on church records. In 1864 the church was referred to as Schenck's Church. For many years services were held in the Hunters Run School building. However, in 1896 a modern red brick church was built near to Schenck's Hill on the old road. This building and the Fairview Evangelical Church in Howard Township were both removed to make way for Sayers Dam. Then, in the spirit of a broader movement to merge the Methodist and Evangelical denominations, the Hunters Run and Fairview congregations united to construct Faith Chapel, situated in a beauty spot on rolling terrain north of present Route 220.

Pastors serving the Hunters Run Methodist Church and Faith Chapel have been:

J. W. Haughawant	1854-1856	R. S. Taylor	1908-1911
Thomas Guyer	1857-1859	James E. Dunning	1912-1915
Rev. Anderson	1859-1863	C. W. Rishell	1916-1917
J. B. Polsgrove	1863-1864	W. G. Steele	1918-1919
James Hunter	1865-1866	M. S. Q. Mellot	1919-1922
George Leidy	1867-1868	A. A. Price	1923-1925
Thomas R. McClure	1869-1870	J. Franklin Smith	1926-1929
J. W. Buckley	1871-1872	J. F. Winkelbleck	1930-1934
L. S. Crone	1873-1874	Raymond L. Morris	1935-1937
R. H. Colburn	1875-1876	Robert E. Fleck	1938-1939
J. Benson Akers	1877-1879	Wallace J. Cummings	1940-1942
H. F. Cares	1880-1881	Roy A. Goss	1943-1945
John Stine	1882-1883	F. L. Pannebaker	1946-1948
Owen Hicks	1884-1885	Norman Simmons	1948-1949
E. Shoemaker	1886-1887	Elwood C. Zimmerman	1949-1951
George E. King	1888-1890	Francis J. Geiger	1952-1954
N. B. Smith	1891-1895	Clair J. Switzer	1954-1955
J. W. Forrest	1896-1897	James W. Nottingham	1955-1957
A. P. Wharton	1898-1900	Max B. Cook	1958-1962
G. F. Boggs	1901-1903	William B. Starr	1963-1969
E. M. Aller	1904-1907	Lawrence Focht	1969-19--



HUNTERS RUN METHODIST CHURCH

CEMETERIES

Records indicate that the Nestlerode Cemetery is the oldest existing cemetery in Liberty Township. The first burial in this family cemetery was made at the time of the death in 1805 of Margaret (Bott) Nestlerode, first wife of settler Christian Nestlerode. The marker of Margaret, a daughter of Heinrich

(Henry) and Elizabeth Bott, bears the German spelling of her name, "Markert Nesselroth." This cemetery is located in the lowlands that divide the lower course of Beech Creek from Bald Eagle Creek. It is about equal distance from each stream on original Nestlerode land, later known as the Bolopue farm, and now farmed by Malcolm Peters, a Nestlerode descendant. The next oldest marked grave is that of Jacob Nestlerode, a grandson of Christian, who died in 1806 at the age of eight years. The last burial in this family plot was H. Franklin Kessinger, son of Jefferson and Fannie (Nestlerode) Kessinger. He died suddenly in 1918 while traveling by horse and buggy between Mill Hall and Salona.

The Baptist Cemetery, beside the Baptist Church, was originally laid out as a private cemetery on land belonging to the Kunes farm mentioned earlier. The need for a burial plot arose at the time of the death of career soldier Daniel Kunes (Sr.) in 1825. The next oldest marked grave in this cemetery is that of Hannah, wife of Daniel Kunes, Jr. She died in 1839. This cemetery later became the Baptist Cemetery.

The history of the Christian Cemetery, opposite the Church of Christ, parallels that of the Baptist Cemetery. Simon Lingle and his wife Susan (Kunes) Lingle, daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Rorabaugh) Kunes, mentioned above, provided the land at the time of the first burial. The occasion was the death of Simon's father Paul Lingle, on February 1, 1856. Paul, son of Thomas Lingle, a Revolutionary War soldier and founder of Linglestown in Dauphin County, was born in that town in 1775 in a house that has been occupied continuously to this day. A picture of this house appeared in the Harrisburg Evening News, issue of February 2, 1971. Then later, as in the case of the Baptist Cemetery, this burial ground also became a church cemetery.

Another family or semi-private cemetery is the Bechdel Cemetery near the W. Francis Smith home. The oldest marked grave is that of Susanna (Helman) Bechdel, second wife of David Bechdel. She died in 1832. David's first wife, Barbara (Schenck) Bechdel, who died in 1800, was likely buried in this or another small family plot with no marker remaining. Settler Christian Bechdel, who died in 1800, and his wife, Mary, who died in 1804, are, without doubt, buried here, but their markers, likely of native flagstone or wood, did not withstand the ravages of time. Their will, a copy of which is in possession of the authors of this report, although seemingly very thorough and complete, nevertheless did not make provision for any specific type of burial or markers. According to the markers the last burial in the Bechdel Cemetery was that of Mary (Rorabaugh) Bechdel, wife of Daniel and mother of the late Thomas J. (Thomps) Bechdel. Mary died in 1904 at age sixty-nine, having outlived her husband by twenty-eight years.

The Rupert Cemetery was erected on a hill north of old Route 220, near the Liberty Township-Howard Township border. At one time it was clearly visible from the highway. The first burial was Amos Rupert, ten-year-old son of John and Elizabeth Rupert. Amos died in 1828. The graves in this cemetery were moved to Schenck's Cemetery, west of Howard, when the Sayers Dam was built.

The Wagner Cemetery in the vicinity of Faith Chapel in the Hunters Run area, has several well marked graves, the oldest being that of Mary Wagner, wife of James, who died February 14, 1851. In addition, this cemetery has a number of native stone markers, on which inscriptions have eroded or else never existed. The last burial in this cemetery was that of James Leitch, son of Cornelius Leitch. He died in 1964 at age ninety-five.

The two church cemeteries are reasonably well-groomed at all times, while the Nestlerode Cemetery is in deplorable condition. In recent years many suggestions have been made regarding restoration of the older, family cemeteries. However, nothing concrete has developed to date.

The locations of most of the graves of residents of Liberty Township who died prior to 1850, and many who died after that time, are not known. Because of the difficulty of transportation in those days, it is unreasonable to believe that corpses were transported and buried in the area from which they or their ancestors had come. Therefore, it is assumed that many were buried in private plots with a temporary marker or no marker at all.

SCHOOLS

The first schools of Liberty Township were, of course, the one-room, ungraded type, spaced according to population with several located within the confines of the town of Blanchard. Then, some time prior to 1881 a four-room, graded school was constructed on the western portion of Bald Eagle Street in Blanchard, near to the alley that leads to Main Street. At that time, the remaining sections of the township were served by the following: the Hunters Run School located within eyesight of the old Blanchard-Howard highway; the Wagner School, near today's Faith Chapel; the Big Run School in the Pole Cat area; the Bitner School at the crossroads near the farm of Harry Glossner; the Clark School on Marsh Creek, which replaced the Bitner School; the Pine Grove School, which served pupils in the Eagleville Station area. The Clark School was originally called the Pleasant Grove School and was also known as the Robb School.

(For purposes of clarification it is pointed out that Bald Eagle Street in Blanchard, which runs eastward from the Baptist Church, was originally a part of the main

Bald Eagle Valley highway. In early days houses on this street, such as the one occupied by Dr. Roberts, were described on deeds as being in the town of Eagleville, on the main road leading from Milesburg to Lock Haven.)

In 1900 a two-story, four-room, brick building to include a high school for the entire township was built in Blanchard. This building, which still stands, and the two-room building in Monument served the township until the new elementary school near the main highway at Blanchard was built. This modern structure, which was built to accommodate all the pupils of Liberty and Curtin townships, has a kindergarten section that receives youngsters from other areas. In addition to its twelve main classrooms the school has a library, two reading rooms, a first-aid room and a staff room. A large, unique, multi-purpose room can be quickly adapted for use as a gymnasium, cafeteria or meeting room. The well-equipped kitchen also serves the Beech Creek school. A large outside area provides a playground and parking space. High school students are transported to Lock Haven or elsewhere.



LODGES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Grand Army of the Republic

Sometime after the Civil War Post number 302 of the G. A. R. was organized in Blanchard. The post was named for George Harleman, son of Jesse and Elizabeth (Stearn) Harleman of Beech Creek Township. George had lost his life in the Battle of Rappahannock in 1863. A letter written by George to Sarah Bitner (later Brady), just one week before his misfortune, has been preserved by Sarah's descendants.

Patriotic Order Sons of America and Independent Order of Odd Fellows

A local camp of the P. O. S. of A., chartered in Blanchard in 1775, lasted only about two years. However, Blanchard Lodge #427 of the I. O. O. F., chartered on March 16, 1877, was very successful. The charter was retained for about eighty years.

American Legion

The Bitner-Bechdel Post number 623, American Legion, was named for two World War I casualties, both from Liberty Township families. They were Corporal Howard W. Bitner, son of Howard W. and Frances (Johnson) Bitner and Joseph R. Bechdel, son of Jacob C. and Lydia J. (DeHaas) Bechdel. This post is a joint Blanchard-Beech Creek organization as was the G. A. R. post of Civil War Veterans. A new headquarters building is currently being constructed at Beech Creek. Three charter members are still on the active rolls. They are William E. Beschler, Malcolm Johnson and Byard Hazlett.

The Fire Company

In the 1930's a group of men, with Thomas F. Kessinger of Beech Creek and William H. Vonada of Blanchard taking leading parts, succeeded in organizing the Beech Creek-Blanchard Volunteer Fire Company. The first funds-raising ventures included a series of festivals, for which Edgar T. Bechdel donated lumber for construction of stands. After World War II a reorganization and some expanded efforts produced a permanent building and siren signals in both towns. The fire company has been a very aggressive organization and today is equipped with modern fire-fighting and ambulance equipment. Service is provided to a wide area including the remaining sections of Liberty Township and Beech Creek Township.

Civic, Social and Youth Programs

As is common in most communities, many worthwhile organizations have been born in the township and allowed to die. A prime example is the Beech Creek Blanchard Community Service Organization, which did much more than sit down each month to a big meal in one of the area churches. The street markers in Blanchard and Beech Creek represent one of the projects of that organization. Unfortunately scouting programs have been a come-and-go situation. However, the current cub scout, boy scout, brownie scout and junior girl scout organizations are dedicated to long-term existence.

Several years ago, with the aid and guidance of the local (Beech Creek and Blanchard) ministerium, the Cheer Club was organized. This is a senior citizens group, which meets regularly most of the year for an enjoyable program and social get-together. Periodic bus trips to points of interest are arranged throughout the year.

Baseball and Other Sports

Since the game of baseball was first devised it has been a popular sport all across America and Liberty Township has been no exception. According to pictures and accounts the game was inaugurated in Blanchard well before 1900, and in Monument shortly after that year. In almost every year up to World War II, one or both of these towns had a respectable representation. Since then, Blanchard has had a continuous and lively program, but at the opposite edge of the township the closing of the brick plant had its effects on baseball in Monument. Youth baseball, organized more than twenty-five years ago, has had a very similar experience.

In rather recent years the township has had organized competitive teams in additional sports including softball, bowling and various kinds of shooting and marksmanship with females participating in some of these activities.

Blanchard Cornet Band

The Blanchard Cornet Band, a brass band named for its predominance of cornets, was organized in the early part of the present century. This band, which was outfitted in striking uniforms, played for picnics, festivals and various other public gatherings and appeared in all parades in the vicinity. Rehearsals were held in the old Courter shoe shop on Main Street. Members of the Fletcher, Courter, Smith and Kunes families made up a greater part of the band.

Annual Christmas Sing

The annual joint-church Christmas Sing was started about twenty years ago through the efforts of the Community Service group and the able leadership of Ruth White Wagner.



MONUMENT BALL TEAM 1947

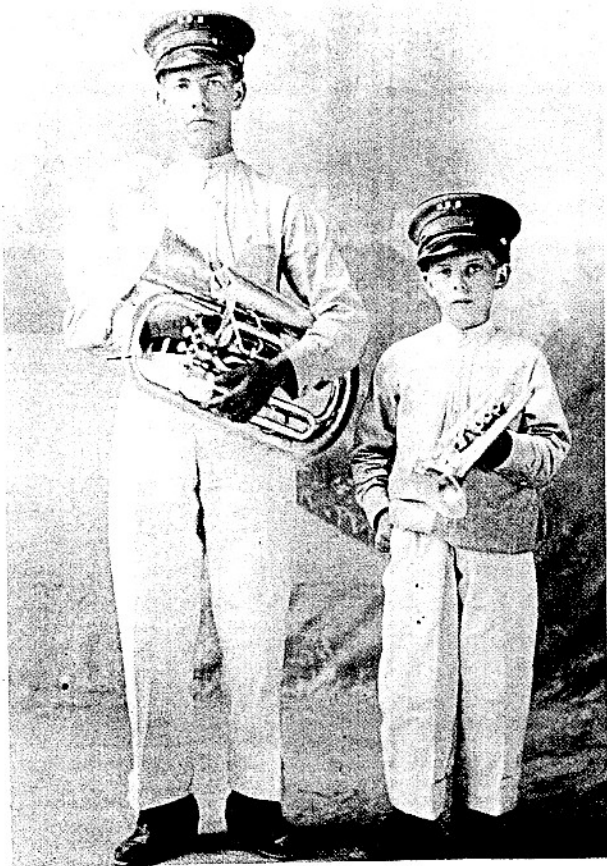


EAGLEVILLE TEAM OF 1873

Left to right, back row, Harvey Kunes, Samuel Kunes, William Kessinger, and Elijah Charles. Front row, Frank Stöver, D. Marshall Berlew, H. Frank Kessinger, Alfred Graham and James Bumgardner. Members of the Centre County Team not present when the picture was taken were Cyrus Bowman, Michael Bechdel and Nobe Glossner.



BAND REHEARSAL



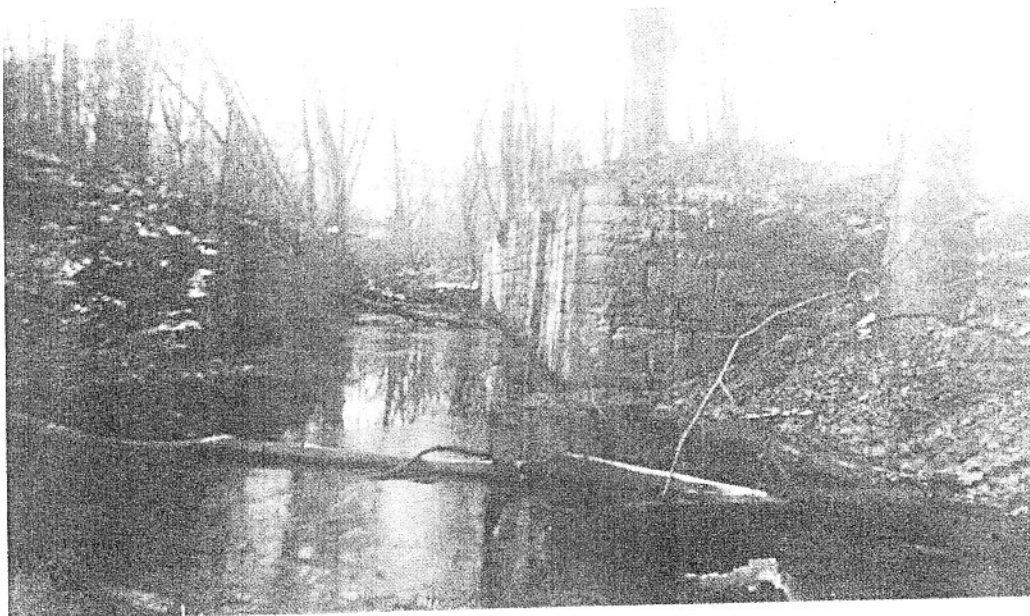
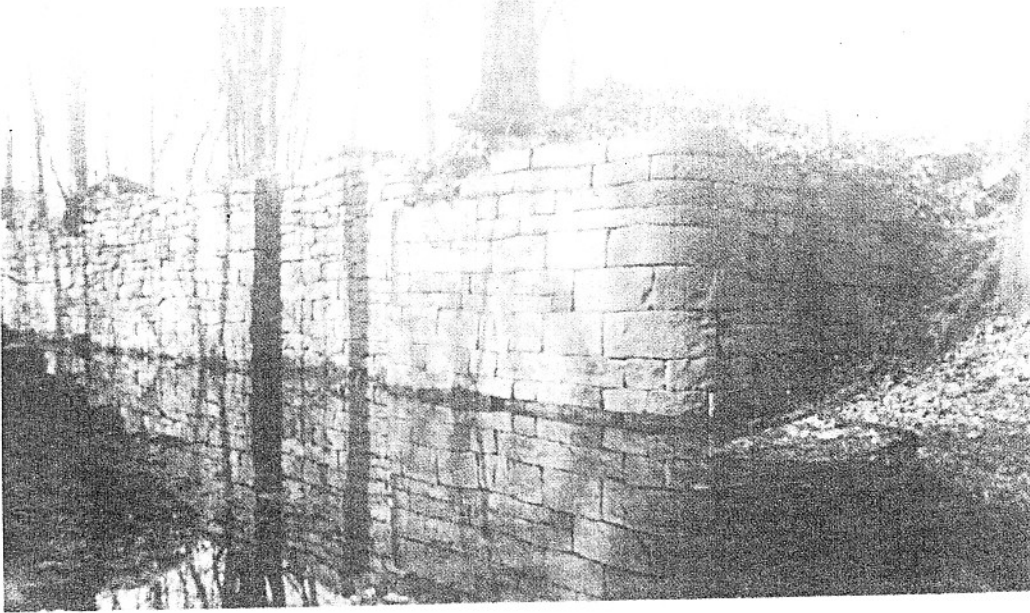
BLANCHARD
BAND
MEMBERS

TRANSPORTATION

In the 1830's the people of Bellefonte and Bald Eagle Valley, having only primitive methods of transportation, became very anxious for a connection to the Pennsylvania Canal, which had its terminus at Lock Haven. Accordingly, the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation Company was organized. Progress was rapid, and as early as September 24, 1835, contracts were awarded for the Beech Creek dam and lock. This lock was directly south of Beech Creek in Liberty Township. By November, 1837 the canal was navigable to Howard, but it was not until September 3, 1847, that it was completed to Milesburg. The first boat "ascended" to Bellefonte on Friday, September 1, 1848, at which time a gala celebration was held by a very jubilant gathering.

The flood of 1865 destroyed the section of canal between Bellefonte and Beech Creek, and it was never rebuilt. The prohibitive expense of repairing and replacing the twenty-two locks in the twenty-three-mile-stretch from Bellefonte east was given as the

reason. However, another and perhaps overriding reason was the competition from the Lock Haven and Tyrone Railroad, which had begun operations three years earlier.



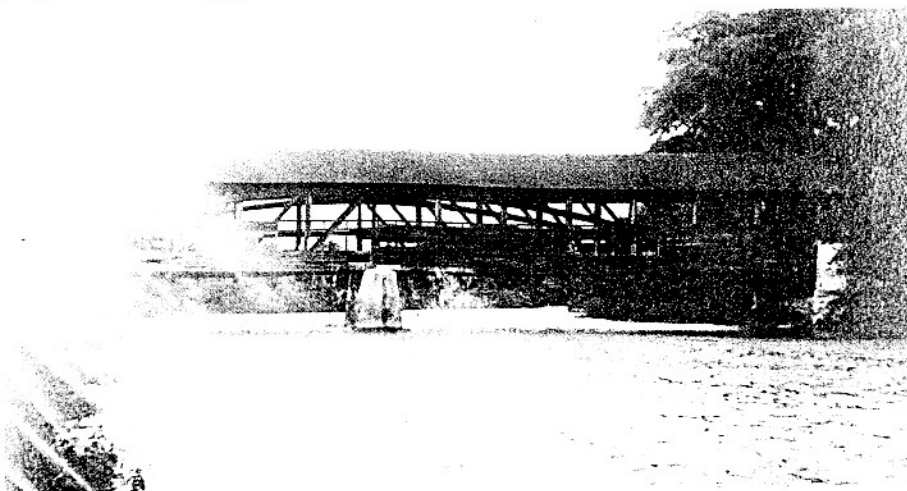
CANAL LOCK

The Lock Haven and Tyrone Railroad Company had been organized in 1853, and as indicated above, began service in 1862. Sometime later this line became the Bald Eagle Valley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, now the bankrupt Penn-Central. The Beech Creek Railroad, which was built in 1883 and sometime afterward became a branch of the New York Central, passed through the portion of Liberty Township where later the town of Monument was built.

Local bus service connecting Liberty Township to Bellefonte, Lock Haven and points between, was inaugurated in the early 1920's by Zimmerman's Bus Lines, which later became Tice's Bus Lines. Some sort of local bus transportation has been available ever since. However, just as the canal boats replaced the canoe and horse, just as the railroad replaced the canal boats, and just as the bus and family automobile replaced rail transportation, the family automobile has just about voided the need for local bus service.

In the year 1818 Alexander Murdock of Missouri Territory mailed a letter to his wife's sister, Elizabeth Masden, and her husband, John, of Liberty Township. The letter was addressed, "Mr. John Masden, Living on the Bald Eagle Creek, State of Pennsylvania, Mifflin or Centre County", and was likely carried by a pony express-type of mail service. Thanks to dedicated postal employees the letter was eventually delivered to the Masdens and is being preserved by Fred Clark of Blanchard. In his letter Mr. Murdock made reference to a family friend, whom he described as "a granddaughter of old Colonel Daniel Boone."

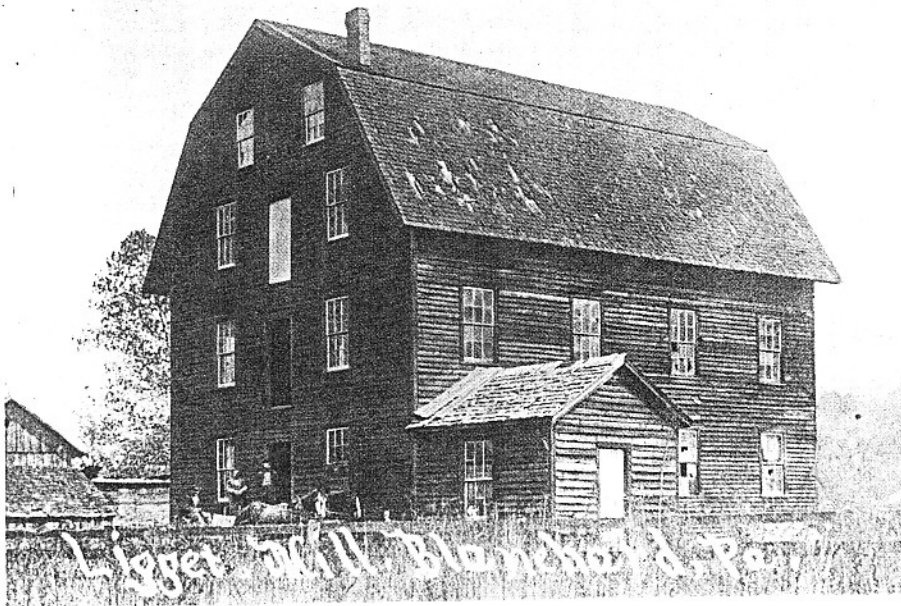
The early highway down the valley traversed Blanchard via Bald Eagle Street and continued in an almost perfectly straight line to the old covered bridge. The sagging condition of this bridge during the last several years of its existence was caused by vehicles that were not even dreamed of when the structure was built -- gasoline buggies.



COVERED BRIDGE

LANDMARKS

Liberty Township was not endowed with any unusual natural phenonema such as caverns, boiling springs or high water falls, yet it has had its share of interesting landmarks. One example is the mammoth grist mill that stood along Bald Eagle Creek just below the present Sayers Dam. This mill which was built before 1860 was originally operated by the Liggets. In 1870 the miller was John W. Baker who lived next to Benjamin Ligget. Shortly thereafter the mill was being operated by John W. Tonner, who was described as a merchant miller. In 1890 the miller was William Strunk, whose family had followed the milling trade since the early 1800's. Sometime later the mill was operated by George Page and still later by the Best family.



LIGGET MILL

A portion of the stone foundation of a distillery built in the very early 1800's on the west bank of Marsh Creek near the home of W. Francis Smith is still visible. The original owner, Christian Bechdel (II), great, great grandfather of Mr. Smith, died in 1851, after which it was operated by some of his descendants.

The large frame building that stood near the railroad track at Eagleville station once contained the family, office and hospital of Dr. Thomas Rothrock. Until very recently much of the old canal bed could be seen in parts of the township. The old stone furnace at Hunters Run remained intact many years after operations ceased.



HOSPITAL AT EAGLEVILLE

Liberty Township has a number of early-built homes. However, to name the very oldest house that is still habitable is difficult as it is in most communities. With only limited records as a guide the final selection will involve the best estimates and opinions that are available. Current candidates for the honor are the homes of Harris Confer and Russell McCloskey in Blanchard, both built in the 1830's, and the home of W. Francis Smith, possibly built in the same decade. It is entirely possible that one or more homes in other sections of the township may pre-date the three listed here.

The previously-mentioned canal lock in the southern part of the township may well be the best preserved lock in Pennsylvania, considering that no preservation action has ever been undertaken. It is located between the railroad tracks and the creek, directly across stream from the lower fields of the old Bolopue farm and just east of the present Dean Dietz farm. The walls of the lock, which were constructed of the dry-wall type masonry of that day, have withstood the frosts and floods of the intervening years and

are as erect as when built in 1835. A club house, built in more recent years near the canal lock, is now in a tumble-down condition.

In 1883 a young Columbia College engineering student from New Jersey accepted vacation-time employment with a surveying crew that had an assignment in Liberty Township. They were preparing plans for a proposed railroad to be built up Beech Creek Valley by Samuel Saylor, a Beech Creek lumberman. Saylor was hurrying his project in order to discourage a group of New York City financiers, who had already initiated plans for such a railroad on the opposite side of the creek. Immediately after the first surveys Saylor started actual construction at the foot of Big Hill, just north of the farm that was later operated for many years by Chauncy Weaver. Saylor soon began to realize that sufficient capital for such a speculative enterprise was not readily forthcoming. Therefore, when the other developers actually started their project, his undertaking was abandoned. The completed section of Saylor's roadbed, including a masonry bridge-way, constitutes a permanent land mark in Liberty Township. The Lock Haven Express, some years ago presented pictures and an account of Saylor's venture.

For one reason or another the young engineering student, after his experience here, decided to switch to the field of chemistry. However, while here he attended a party in Beech Creek and met a young Blanchard girl, who later became his wife. This couple, Dr. William D. and Carrie (Quigley) Horne, some years later, chose for their home the very same house where they had first met. Carrie was the daughter of Civil War Captain James Quigley and his wife, Mary (Shaw) Quigley.

PROFESSIONS, OCCUPATIONS AND VOCATIONS

A number of Liberty Township natives became successful, if not outstanding, in various fields of endeavor. Henry Quigley, son of James and Mary (Shaw) Quigley, served as Judge of Centre County for a number of years. Edward Quigley, brother of Henry, became vice president of Armstrong Cork Company, and a third brother, Richard, was State Senator representing central Pennsylvania.

Roy Burlew, son of D. Marshall and Mary (Campbell) Burlew, was founder of the Ken-Rad Corporation of Kentucky, a part of which was purchased by General Electric, and a part by Westinghouse. Henry Spangler, son of William and Emily (Seyler) Spangler, became a successful pharmacist. Dean Goodwin, son of Mark and Bertha (Lingle) Goodwin and Chauncey DeLong, son of James I. and Lettie (Gardner) DeLong, both became accomplished musicians and piano instructors.

Ellen Johnston, daughter of Charles and Mary (Stoler) Johnston, who began her career as a local teacher, has contributed considerably toward education, including the authoring of children's textbooks. Miss Johnston, now staying with her grand nephew, Dr. Glenn L. Williams, has fond memories of her early teaching years in Liberty Township. Dr. Williams, son of Shuman S. and Bertha Johnston Williams, who likewise is a township native, is located in the Philadelphia area. Joseph J. Lingle, son of John and Martha (Shaw) Lingle, served several terms as associate judge of Cameron County. Frederick Hunter, son of James A. and Clara (Nestlerode) Hunter, became a high school principal in the western part of the state. Dean Johnston, son of Clarence and Blanche (Schenck) Johnston, served in both houses of the Delaware legislature. Gerald Thompson, son of David and Mae (Leathers) Thompson, is manager of the state employment office at Wellsboro. Franklin Courter, son of Frank and Anna (Smith) Courter, is assistant superintendent of schools at Williamsport. Bill Bowes, son of Morris and Pauline (Peters) Bowes and former football standout at Lock Haven High School and Penn State University, was named the 1975 New England Major College Football Coach of the Year.

Another native, Samuel Bechdel, son of David and Ida (Treaster) Bechdel, was a professor in the field of agriculture at Pennsylvania State University for many years. Samuel was a great, great grandson of settler Christian Bechdel. Samuel Bechdel's grand nephew, Terry W. Hendricks, son of Marlin and Lois (Bechdel) Hendricks, is a practicing dentist in Lock Haven.

The town of Monument, being relatively new when compared with the township as a whole, had, therefore, no early natives, successful or unsuccessful. However, we are reminded that Victor L. Williams, the popular Lock Haven dentist and son of Stewart and Myrtle (Straw) Williams, is one of the earlier natives of this newer community. Keeping the town of Monument in mind, it was here that W. Harold Clark, a Blanchard native and son of Henry and Maud (Bitner) Clark, began a brick-making career that carried him to high management and advisory positions in the General Refractories organization.

The family of Hayes and Mabel (Bathurst) Pletcher of Blanchard is remembered for its musical talent. This family was able to assemble a good orchestra with no outside members.

In addition to the natives who have had noteworthy careers, Liberty Township had had many residents who later became successful in one way or another. Ira McCloskey, son of Abner and Abigail (Mason) McCloskey, who lived and taught school in the township, became superintendent of Clinton County schools. Similarly, Milford Pletcher, son of Henry and Martha (Kline) Pletcher, who also lived and taught in the township, became assistant superintendent of Centre County schools.

Harry T. Berryhill, son of Richard and Mary (Snyder) Berryhill, who as a boy and young man lived with both his grandparents and his older brother George in Blanchard, went to the west coast, where he was later elected, and reelected a number of times, to the position of treasurer of the city of Tacoma, Washington. Joseph J. Lingle (not to be confused with his previously-mentioned grand nephew of the very same name) came from Linglestown, Dauphin County, at an early age and in 1850 was elected sheriff of Centre County.

In 1863 Jacob Snyder came from Clearfield County, married Susan Johnston, daughter of Charles C. and Martha (Bitner) Johnston, first practiced dentistry in the township, then later he did woodworking, including coffin making. William H. and Thompson Snyder, sons of William and Margaret (Marshall) Snyder, had accompanied their parents from their native Snyder County. In Liberty Township the two brothers and their father were free-lance civil engineers. In comparatively recent times Liberty Township welcomed a Beech Creek emigrant, who in his latter years had vigorously resumed his first love -- painting. Charles H. Smith is a perfect example of self-training. In addition to his art works, Charley will be remembered for his musical and vocal ability.

Among the early carpenters was Jonas Spangler (Sr.), ancestor of all Liberty Township Spanglers. A little later came Joseph Williams, son of George and Susan (Quiggle) Williams, also Michael Swartz and James Shearer. The number of carpenters just about doubled between 1860 and 1870. Among those who entered the trade during that period and remained in it were the Glossner brothers, Samuel and Daniel, sons of Frederick and Elizabeth Glossner, who had migrated from Germany. Shortly thereafter Isaac Williams, son of John and Eliza (Butler) Williams, came from Clearfield and married Catharine Holter, daughter of Jacob, Jr. and Catharine (Pletcher) Holter. By 1880 Isaac had become a "full-fledged" carpenter, but soon withdrew from this craft to become a barber. John Williams, brother of Joseph, above, directed his woodworking skills toward cabinet making, especially coffins. John thereby became the first undertaker of Liberty Township. As such he was later followed by N. Henderson Johnston, son of Charles C. and Martha (Bitner) Johnston. Henderson likewise entered the undertaking profession by the woodworking route. By 1890 Charles White, son of John and Martha (Confer) White, had become a journeyman carpenter and was followed in the construction trade by his son Raymond. William I. Harter, son of Andrew and Eve (Smith) Harter, was an expert woodworker and turned out beautiful places of furniture.

Blacksmithing was the most popular trade in the very early days of the township, outnumbering full-time carpenters about three to one. However, by 1870 carpenters outnumbered blacksmiths about

two to one. The first blacksmith was David Ligget of the pioneering Ligget family. Then came John T. Clark and Joseph B. Hall, each of whom engaged in the trade for more than forty years. Mr. Clark and his wife Mary (Boone) Clark had a son, D. Wilson Clark, a Civil War veteran, who followed blacksmithing. Then too, Mr. Hall and his wife, Sarah (Schenck) Hall, had a son Wilbur who learned the blacksmithing trade. Wilbur's wife, Eliza, was the daughter of Frederick and Mary (Uhl) Robb, also of Liberty Township. Nathan Harvey Lucas, son of John Baptist and Elizabeth (Knox) Lucas, had a long career in blacksmithing. Nathan's wife was Nancy Gardner, daughter of Washington and Jane (Austin) Gardner. Those following the occupation in later times were Jacob DeLong, son of Jonathan and Fanny (Bumgardner) DeLong, N. Mitchell Bitner, son of John and Susan (Orner) Bitner and William Packer, son of Hayes Coates and Anna Eliza (Williams) Packer, who married Flotilla Bolopue, daughter of Charles and Mary J. (Graham) Bolopue.

When residents of Liberty Township think back to the old-time shoemakers who could make a complete shoe or boot, they think of the Courters or Marshall Burlew. William F. Courter, son of Abraham and Nancy (Rogers) Courter, followed the trade for about fifty years, having started before 1850. He and his wife, Matilda (Potts) Courter, had a son, Girard, who also mastered the trade. Also learning the trade under Mr. Courter was David Cline. At least two shoemakers, Levi Sullenberger, son of Peter and Mary Sullenberger, and Samuel B. Kunes, son of John and Nancy (Gardner) Kunes, preceded Mr. Courter. However, neither continued long at the occupation. Mr. Burlew, who operated his shop for many years in the building now used as a garage by Harold and Margaret (Harter) Pletcher, was one of the last of the real shoemakers.

Although not a craft or trade, an occupation that nevertheless required some skill and training was that of canal boatman, a vocation followed by a number of township residents. A story about the three Lingle canal boat captains, Alexander, George and James, appeared in the October, 1971 issue of "Centre County Heritage," a semi-annual publication of the Centre County Historical Society. In addition to the Lingle brothers, other early canal boatmen were the Rupert brothers, Emanuel and Barnard, sons of John and Elizabeth Rupert. Later came Charles Courter, brother of William Courter and the Winslow brothers, George and Thomas, sons of Charles and Margaret Winslow, Beech Creek Township farmers. Others were John Lingle, a nephew of the captains Lingle and John W. Lighthamer, who was born in Germany. Boatmen with shorter careers included Joseph B. Shaw, son of Hugh (Sr.) and Martha (Montgomery) Shaw, the Burd brothers, John and William, Samuel Brickley and Lemuel Clark (another son of John and Mary); also James Galbraith, son of Joseph and Nancy Galbraith. Mr. Clark later became a very busy well digger.

An early wagon maker was Daniel Pletcher, son of Samuel and Anna (Schenck) Pletcher. Anna, also known as Nancy, was a daughter of settler Michael Schenck, the Mennonite minister; her first husband was Henry Pletcher. The wagon maker with the longest career was Thomas Lingle, son of Simon and Susanna (Kunes) Lingle and a brother of boatman John Lingle. Other wagon makers were James P. Lingle, brother of Thomas, Patrick McGhee, William Searle and Andrew J. Boone.

Perhaps the first stone mason was John Bitner, son of settler John Bitner, and later came Joseph Galbraith. Then, starting in the 1870's, John Alfred Nestlerode, son of Daniel and Frances (Swartz) Nestlerode, followed the trade until his death in 1913. Another stone mason of that period, was William Moon, who had married a local girl, Eunice Riter. William, father of the late Albert Moon, died comparatively young. Without doubt most, if not all, of John Alfred Nestlerode's outstanding ability was inherited by his nephew, William F. Kessinger.

Before his death in 1897, Henry Kunes had worked almost sixty years at the plastering trade. Another early plasterer was Civil-War-veteran H. Kirk Graham, son of McCormick and Mary Graham. Kirk and his wife Charity (Miller) Graham, daughter of John and Nancy (Nestlerode) Miller, had come from Beech Creek Township and later moved elsewhere. The last full-time plasterer of the area was Irvin Scantlin, son of William and Catharine (Bitner) Scantlin. At various times Mr. Scantlin was very ably assisted by Floyd Bechdel, son of Thomas J. and Clara (Bitner) Bechdel.

A previous paragraph mentioned early undertakers including Henderson Johnston. Mr. Johnston was followed by Edgar Thompson Bechdel, son of William and Matilda (Snyder) Bechdel. Mr. Bechdel began his career in 1900, by which time factory-made caskets had become very popular and the word "coffin" was on the decline.

The first tailor was Richard Riter. However, the Bucks, William and Walter, father and son, consecutively operated shops over a span of almost seventy years. The younger Buck, one of seven children of William and Margaret, was christened "Isaac Walton", but was generally known as "I. W." or "Walter". He last practiced his trade in the old Nestlerode house near Beech Creek in the 1920's. John Stevens did some tailoring around the 1870's.

A saddlery shop was opened by Jacob Crotzer in the 1860's. By 1880 Jacob's son, William, had completed his training and was working full time as a saddler. By 1890 Charles Crotzer, another son of Jacob, had become a proficient cigar maker. Preceding Charles at cigar making were Alfred Graham, son of Elisha and

Lydia Graham, and Thornton Williams, son of Joseph and Bethsheba (Gardner) Williams. Incidentally the name "Thornton" came from Nancy (Thornton) Gardner, the wife of settler John Gardner. Two township natives, Irvin and McClellan Bitner, sons of Abraham and Martha (Trexler) Bitner, also became skilled cigar makers, Irvin at Altoona and McClennan at DuBois.

Records reveal the name of only one cooper (barrel maker). He was John Cushin, who entered the occupation before 1850. Another skill that gave full-time employment to just one resident was gunsmithing. John Workman was employed at this trade for at least thirty years during the middle 1800's.

Richard Riter, a tailor by trade, built and operated the first inn. He was succeeded by Daniel Kunes, son of Daniel and Hannah (Rorabaugh) Kunes, who kept the inn for about forty years. The younger Daniel had a son Samuel H., who also for awhile, followed inn-keeping along with his lumbering pursuits. Another early inn keeper in the township was one Christian Nestlerode, likely a grandson of settler Christian, and a little later John A. Stover operated an inn. John was followed by his son, J. Orrie Stover.

Tobias Bitner, son of George and Margaret Bitner, was a self-employed pump maker during the latter 1820's and early 1830's. Even though his services were in apparent demand throughout the valley, he left town during the middle 1830's when his lately-widowed mother and her other children returned to the area from whence she had come -- likely Lancaster County.

In addition to the large sawmill operations of the Nestlerodes and the Fowlers, some smaller, yet permanent, mills existed. George Eaton, son of John C. and Susan (Stoler) Eaton, more or



SAWMILL AT EAGLEVILLE

less followed the footsteps of his father by maintaining a sawmill on the old road, later named Bald Eagle Street, in Blanchard. John C. Eaton had operated extensive lumbering operations both within and outside the county. Many present-day residents remember the sawmill at Eagleville Station that was conducted by William F. Kessinger, son of H. Frank and Anna (Nestlerode) Kessinger. Mr. Kessinger also operated a cider press adjacent to his mill. Meanwhile he kept busy as a storekeeper, stone mason, carpenter and general all-round craftsman.

Farming, the earliest occupation in Liberty Township and the most important occupation of all, must not be overlooked. Out of necessity our early farmers, not unlike their counterparts in other newly-settled areas of the country, did their own carpentering, general repairing and oftentimes their own blacksmithing. Each was reasonably successful, thanks to their industriousness, which in most cases, was inherited from German ancestry. We see records of early farmers, who, in spite of their hillside terrain, paid off their debts, raised large families, occasionally sent one or more of their children away to school, and still saved something for retirement.

As has been experienced in the country as a whole, the number of local full-time farmers has steadily declined in recent years. Then in the 1960's this decline was temporarily, but sharply, accelerated when the farms adjacent to Bald Eagle Creek were condemned to make way for Sayers Dam. In recent times there has been a noticeable trend away from the type of general farming that had been practiced over the years, toward the growing of bigger forage crops to support larger dairy herds. In the 1800's there was just one example of specialized farming. This particular farmer was listed as a tobacco grower.

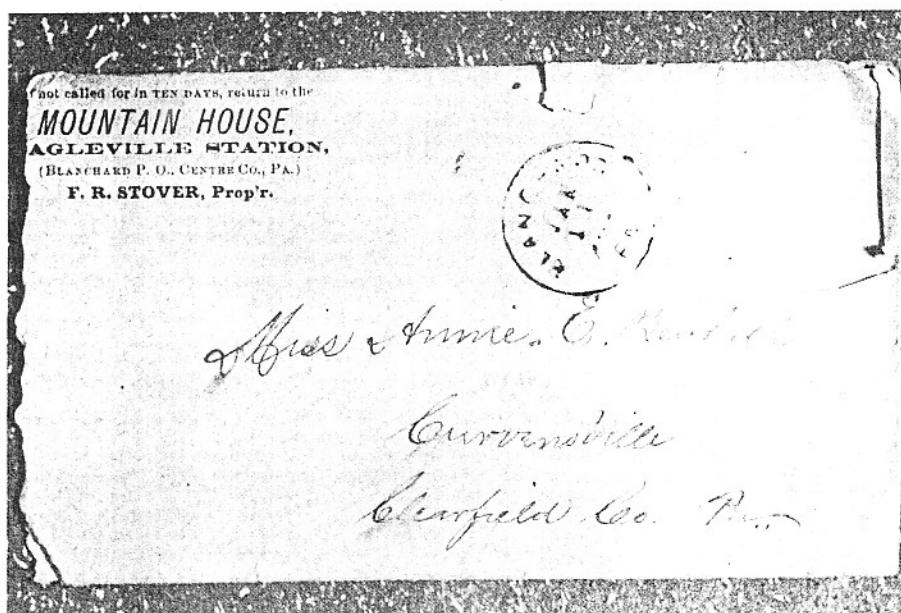
Isaac Williams, the first full-time barber was succeeded by John C. Bathurst. Mr. Bathurst carried his practice well into the present century, being next followed by Hayes Pletcher, son of Joseph and M. Annie (Bechdel) Pletcher. William Bolopue, son of Charles and Mary J. (Graham) Bolopue, opened a barber shop sometime after the turn of the century. He later closed shop and opened one in Beech Creek, where he remained for only a short period. More recent barbers include Walter Miller, Walter Williams, who is still in business, Harold Pletcher and Robert Beaty.

Livery stable operators included Edgar T. Bechdel and the Kunes brothers, Cletus (Danny) and Charles, sons of David and Ellen (Hendricks) Kunes. The last livery stable was operated by J. Orrie Stover, son of John and Catharine (Reichley) Stover. By the time Mr. Stover closed this business several repair garages already were in operation and ready to work on the machines that

were fast replacing the horse and buggy. The first auto repair services were provided by J. Harris Clark, son of D. Wilson and Laura (Kunes) Clark and Norris I. Harter, son of William I. and Mary Alice (Bitner) Harter. Later garages were opened by Earl James, son of Eugene and Ella (Nestlerode) James, and Harry Salisbury, son of Henry and Deborah (Whitefield) Salisbury. The Salisbury garage is now under the management of Henry Salisbury, son of Harry.



BLANCHARD HOUSE AND LIVERY



ENVELOPE BEARING MOUNTAIN HOUSE RETURN ADDRESS

One of the early justices of the peace was James Crawford, who served as late as 1837. On March twenty-first of that year he performed the marriage ceremony of Samuel Bechdel and Anna Schenck. Whether Mr. Crawford lived in the exact part of Howard Township that was to become Liberty is not now known. However, most of his marriages were of couples of the present Liberty Township confines. Later JP's were Joseph Montgomery, James Gardner, Joseph Bumgardner, James Runner, Orin T. Noble, William F. Courter, Henry Snyder, Daniel B. Kunes, John C. Eaton, and William I. Harter, some of whom served several non-consecutive terms. Still later, and within the memory of many of today's residents, were George Eaton, who established a record for continuous service, and Norris I. Harter, both sons of former justices. Justice officers of more modern times included John Eaton and Margaret Harter Pletcher, also descendants of former JP's of the same family name, and Harold Pletcher, husband of Margaret.

For their supplies and provisions early-day residents had to depend on trading centers, often located at distant points. During the 1820's a trading post was established at Howard Furnace, just east of Howard, then called "Howardville." This outlet, according to account books, which are being preserved by Mike and Lois (Lyons) Kotzur of Howard, served a large part of Bald Eagle Valley. During one typical calendar year (1831) the names of

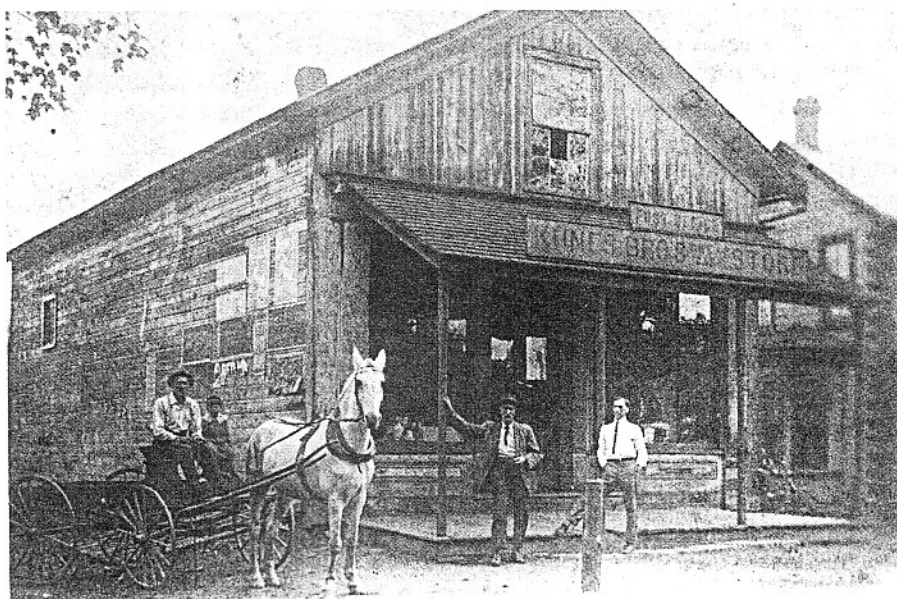
the following Liberty Township residents are discernible: Jacob Runner, Simon Lingle, Daniel Kunes (spelled "Coons"), Joseph Montgomery, John Rupert, Moses Leitch, William Masden, John Nestlerode, Joseph Galbraith, John and Absalom Ligget, John Gardner, Hugh Shaw, Sr., Hugh Shaw, Jr., and David and Christian Bechdel. Many additional township residents likely dealt there on a cash basis. Items purchased in the year 1831 included home sewing needs such as calico, muslin, woven cashmere, silk by the skein, and thread; cooking, preserving and household needs such as sugar, coffee, alum, cinnamon and indigo by the ounce and castile soap by the pound; hardware items such as sled soles, plow shares, razor strops, lumber and nails; and miscellaneous items including tobacco by the pound and whiskey at twenty-five cents per half-gallon.

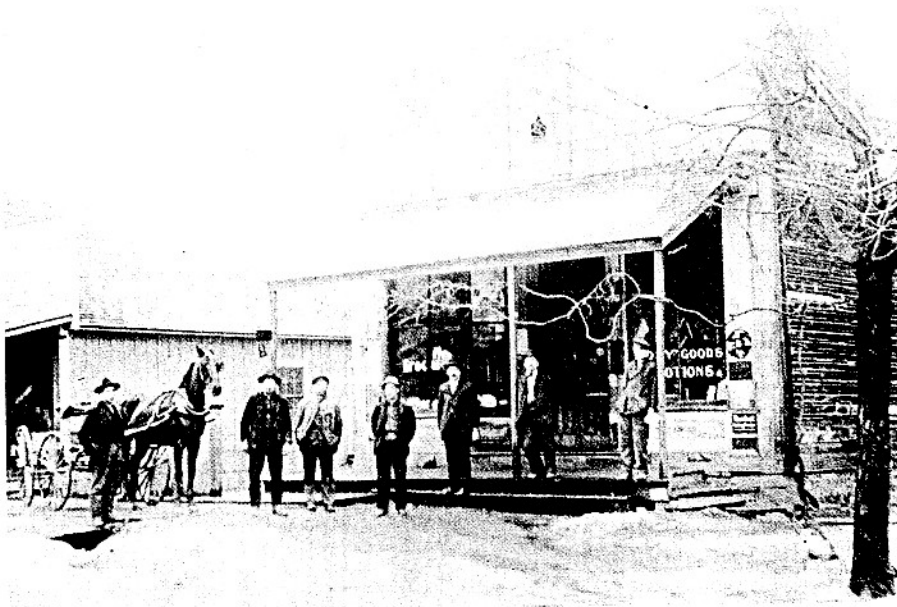
Merchandise was available in Blanchard sometime after 1831 when stores were opened by John Brickley and Joseph Bumgardner. A little later Joseph B. Kunes, another son of Daniel and Mary Kunes, opened a store. Captain James Quigley, following his return from the Civil War, entered a merchandising career that continued more than fifty years in the building later occupied by W. H. Vonada and now owned by Kenneth Shady. Another Civil War veteran, who had a store record that approached Mr. Quigley's, was William Singer, who had married Mary Bechdel, daughter of Christian III and Lydia (Bechdel) Bechdel. John Irvin Kunes, son of Christian and Caroline (Stalich) Kunes, opened his store at about the same time as Quigley and Singer. However, in 1882 he sold out to J. I. DeLong, son of Campbell and Elizabeth (Kunes) DeLong. According to a newspaper announcement at that time Mr. DeLong promised to continue the same kind of courteous service that had been provided by Mr. Kunes. Other nineteenth century merchants, mostly of a short term nature, included Alfred Graham, son of Elisha and Lydia Graham; Nathan Kunes, son of Samuel S. and Elizabeth (Chatham) Kunes; and Richard Runner, whose wife Sarah was a daughter of Henry Kunes, the plasterer, and his wife Julia Ann. Also Daniel Nestlerode.

Additional merchants and shop keepers of earlier days included Henry Snyder, son of William and Margaret (Marshall) Snyder; John T. Mann, son of Nicholas and Hannah (Roan) Mann; George Page, son of Reuben and Mary (Kuhn) Page; William Bowes, son of James and Sarah (Bechdel) Bowes; T. Milton Kunes, son of William and Frances (Bechdel) Kunes; C. Allison (Al) Williams, son of George Q. and Elizabeth (Bollinger) Williams, and Albert Moon. Also William H. Vonada, son of Benjamin and Nora (Ohl) Vonada; William C. Dietz, son of Franklin and Alice (Corman) Dietz; Porter Kunes, son of James and Mary (Stover) Kunes; John Campbell, son of Richard and Frances (Sharp) Campbell, and Adolphus Bowser. Merchants of more recent times include Harris Confer, Charles Williams, Robert Kellerman, Percy Emert, Jacob Hendricks and Kenneth Shady.



BLANCHARD BUSINESSES





BLANCHARD STORE

The first store in Monument was opened by Mrs. Minnie Clymer. Next came Albert Bergner, who had previously operated a store in Beech Creek. For many years Paul Wood was manager of a company-owned store in Monument. Ownership of this store later passed into the hands of Mr. Wood and his family. Retail merchandising is presently being carried on in this town by Alice (Mann) Geier, daughter of Harvey and Margaret Anna (Kreager) Mann.

Doctor Roberts, the first doctor of Liberty Township, lived where Russell McCloskey now lives. Dr. Roberts, who was also the first postmaster of Blanchard, was followed by doctors Rothrock, Johns and Hulbert. It appears that the latter, Dr. Jarvis Hulbert, came to Liberty Township in the 1870's possibly in semi-retirement, following a lengthy career elsewhere.

Succeeding David W. Roberts as postmaster was Joseph Bumgardner, followed by John Brickley, John T. Clark and Christian Bollinger. However, during the term of Mr. Bollinger, the post office was discontinued because of an earlier post office in Pennsylvania by the name "Eagleville." Then, after the new name, "Blanchard," was selected, the post office was reestablished on July 25, 1870, with Sarah E. Snyder as postmistress. Miss Snyder was followed by postmasters J. Richard Runner, Henry A. Snyder, Mr. Runner, Mr. Snyder, Daniel B. Kunes, William T. Fowler, T. Milton Kunes, Milford Gardner, Norris I. Harter, James G. Egan, Essie B. Spangler and Franklin Heverly, in this order.

The first postmaster at Monument was Clark Paul, who was later replaced by Minnie Clymer. Mrs. Clymer was followed by Albert Bergner, who served many, many years while operating a small store. Next in line was Charles Swartz, who was succeeded by his wife, Hulda (Batschelet) Swartz. The last person to serve prior to the inauguration of delivery service from the Beech Creek post office was Mrs. Sarah Shope.

INCIDENTS, EVENTS AND MISCELLANY

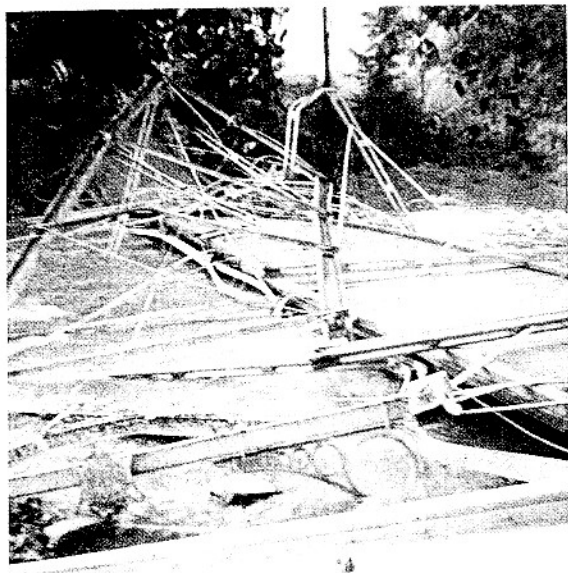
Early in the morning of Monday, July 10, 1911, the life of a sixty-four-year-old Blanchard well digger was saved by the brave action of another Liberty Township native. When at the bottom of a deep well at a residence on upper Water Street in Beech Creek, Lemuel Clark was overcome by lack of oxygen. Among the men who quickly reached the scene was Frank A. Kunes, who had been alerted by his neighbor Mrs. Mae (McCarthy) Miller. Mr. Kunes, realizing the graveness of the situation, took upon himself to descend into the well and fasten a rope onto Mr. Clark. When Clark's unconscious body was hoisted to the surface a doctor and a man trained in first aid, both already on hand, provided the initial treatment that was to assure his full recovery.

The above incident brings to mind the fate of settler Michael Brickley, who lost his life when a well he was digging caved in on him. This occurred sometime before December 2, 1831, at which time his estate was settled. Historical reports showing that Mr. Brickley built the first house in Blanchard likely meant the first full-size house as compared to cabin-type homes. The date could not have been later than 1831 and may have been considerably earlier.

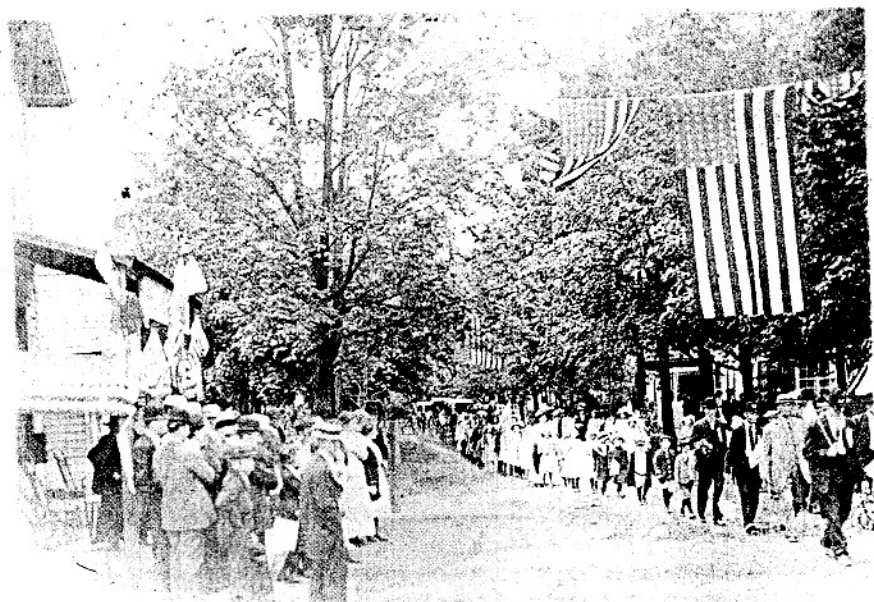
In 1959 the bridge over Bald Eagle Creek at Blanchard collapsed, killing Jacob Williams, who was helping to repair the bridge following damage caused by an automobile. Newspaper accounts of this accident mentioned a near-tragedy at the old Marsh Creek bridge in 1929, when that bridge collapsed under the weight of a truck load of sand. The driver, Russell Lucas, was accompanied by his wife and young son, Mervin. The final position of the truck saved the trio from serious consequences when the gasoline from the above-the-engine tank flowed into the cab instead of onto the magneto and hot engine. Preceding this latter accident by several years was a one-car accident at the same bridge, which took the life of an Altoona man, who had been visiting in Liberty Township.

The inauguration of the annual Memorial Day parade, which originates in Beech Creek and terminates in Blanchard, pre-dates the memory of any present-day people. It is entirely possible that the local observance was commenced shortly after Decoration Day

was first founded in Centre County at Boalsburg sometime after the Civil War. Trusting again to memories, no one seems to recall a time when the parade was completely cancelled because of bad weather.



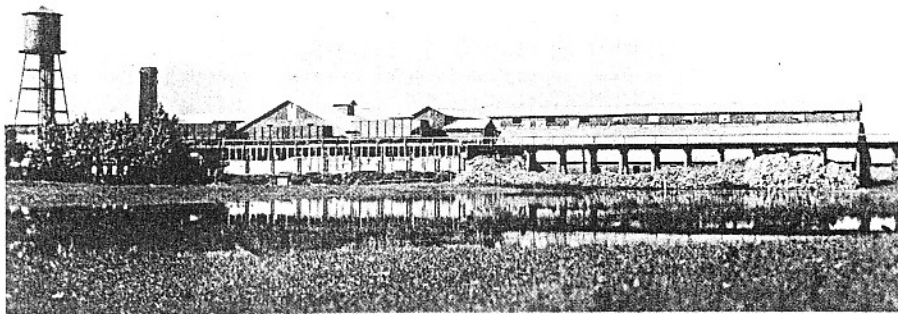
1959 BRIDGE ACCIDENT



1912 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
(Blanchard)

At the time of the American Revolution the population of Liberty Township was very, very sparse. Therefore it is not surprising that no records can be found of any volunteers from this area. However, John Marsden, Jr., son of Revolutionary War soldier John Marsden, was a volunteer to the War of 1812, as was Samuel Gardner, son of John and Nancy (Thornton) Gardner.

Prior to the beginning of fire brick making at Monument, Liberty Township had been dominated by just two main industries, farming and lumbering. During the period that the brick plant at Monument was providing employment for about two hundred, the Beech Creek brick plant was providing employment for many workers in the Blanchard area. The closing of these two plants fortunately caused only minimal economic effects due to the willingness of local workers to commute to nearby industrial areas.



PA. FIRE BRICK CO. 1917
(Beech Creek, Pa.)

Without any doubt Liberty Township was a favorite spot of the Indians and possibly for reasons other than the good hunting and fishing. To state that at least a ton of arrowheads, in addition to many other Indian articles, had been removed from the lowlands adjacent to Bald Eagle Creek, and just east of Blanchard, is no exaggeration. Various theories have been advanced for the concentration of so much Indian evidence in such a small area.

At the very time this history is being completed and readied for publication the community of Blanchard is confronted with the problem of bats. Authorities already drawn to the scene have

made these main points: brown bats, which harbor in attics and old buildings, depend on insect life for their food, and there can only be as many bats as there are insects to sustain them; unless and until insects become extinct a certain number of bats is necessary; the greatest danger to humans is from rabid bats that are apt to convey their disease via pet animals. To guard against the latter an inoculation program for animals has been completed.

EARLY FAMILIES

John and Nancy (Thornton) Gardner had the following children, most of whom were born before the year 1800: Washington, who married Jane Austin and had a large family, several of whom settled in the Howard area; James, Jane, Ephraim, William, John and Samuel, who married Elizabeth Lucas and raised a family of ten or more.

Jonathan DeLong (1773-1862) and his wife Sarah (Campbell) DeLong had these five children: Campbell, who married Elizabeth Kunes and had three children; David, who married Elizabeth Bechdel and had eleven children; Margaret, who married Jacob Brickley and had seven children; Sarah, who married John E. Bechdel and had nine children; and Jonathan, Jr., who married Fanny Bumgardner and had seven or more children.

Christian Nestlerode (1762-1834) and his first wife Margaret had these ten children: Susanna (Bitner), Elizabeth (Wagner), John, Catharine (Rorabaugh), Christena, Christian, Jr., Barbara (Pletcher), Israel, Daniel and Anna (Bitner). Christian and his second wife, Catharine, had these five children: Samuel, Hetty (Bressler), Margaret (Mann), Maria and Magdalena (Seyler).

John Bitner (1776-1851) and his wife Susanna (Nestlerode) Bitner had these children: John, Christian, Nancy (Knox), Susanna (Rockwell), Barbara (Leathers), Catharine (Wagner), Margaret (Sowers or Sayers), Abraham, Daniel, Martha (Johnston), Lydia (Heverly), Lavina (Shearer) and Samuel, who died unmarried.

Andrew Linn (1768-1853) and his wife, Martha, had these eight children: Mary (Wagner), Elizabeth (McGhee), Thomas, Margaret (McKinney), Andrew, Jr., James, Joseph and Martha (Crispen).

James McGhee (died 1822) and his wife Hannah (Worden) McGhee had children: James, Samuel, Mary (Clark), Betsy (Reed), Hannah, Sarah (Wagner), Isaac and John.

Rev. Michael Schenck (1744-1816) and his wife, Magdalena (Maynard) Schenck, had children: Frederick, who married Susanna Bechdel and had eleven children; Michael, Jr., who married Mariah Sternaman and had four children; Anna (Nancy), who married (1) Henry Pletcher, (2) Samuel Pletcher and had six children; John, who married Esther Hess and had three children; Barbara, who married David Bechdel and had one child; Rudolph, who married Sarah Donor and had nine children; Magdalena, who married Henry Pletcher and had eleven children; and Daniel, who married (1) Catharine Melott, (2) widow Elizabeth Fox and had three children.

Daniel Kunes (1779-1855) and his wife, Hannah (Rorabaugh) Kunes, had these children: John, who married Nancy Gardner and had eight children; Daniel, who married (1) Mary Bechdel, (2) Elizabeth Potts and had seven children; Samuel S., who married Elizabeth Chatham and had eight children; Christian, who married Caroline Stalich (or Spagley) and had ten children; Elizabeth, who married Campbell DeLong and had three children; Susanna, who married Simon Lingle and had five children; Mary, who married Jonas Spangler and had five children; Hannah, who married Green Gardner and had at least one child before her early death; and David, who married Rebecca David. It is very likely that Jacob Kunes of early Liberty Township was also a member of this family.

David Bechdel (1776-1851) and his first wife, Barbara (Schenck) Bechdel, had one daughter Magdalena, who married Frederick Pletcher and had seven children. David and his second wife, Susanna (Helman) Bechdel, had these ten children: Samuel, who married Anna Schenck and had three children; John E., who married Sarah DeLong and had nine children; Christian D., who married Rebecca Askey and had seven children; Susanna, who married Hugh Shaw, Jr., and had ten children; Mary, who married Daniel Kunes and had seven children; David D., who married Elizabeth Thiel and had ten children; Elizabeth, who married David DeLong and had eleven children; Sarah, who married Joseph Bumgardner and had seven children; Jacob, who never married; and Lydia, who married her cousin, Christian Bechdel III and had six children.

Christian Bechdel II (1782-1851) and his wife, Mary (Leathers) Bechdel, had twelve children who survived. They were Mary, who married William W. Shaw and had five children; Davis, who married Christena Workinger and had ten children; Elizabeth, who married William Fearon and had eight children; Christian III, who married his cousin, Lydia Bechdel, and had six children; Joseph, who was in Venango County in 1850 and for whom no further records are available; Jacob C., who married Isabella Confer and had nine children; Susan, who married John P. DeHaas and had nine children; Samuel, who married Mary DeLong and had three children; Sarah, who married Emanuel Rupert and had five children; Nancy, who married William J. Yearick; Rebecca, who married John N. Williams

and had five children; and Daniel, who married Mary Rorabaugh and had four children. Family records show that after the death of Christian and Mary's first child named "Christian," they then gave the same name to their next-born son..

Another Bechdel brother, Jacob, married Elizabeth Leathers and had these ten children before moving from the area: Samuel, Mary (Cherry), Frederick, Christian, Joseph, Martin, Jacob, David, Elizabeth (Rutter) and Susanna (Warner).

Hugh Shaw, Sr. and his wife, Martha (Montgomery) Shaw had seven children, two of whom were born before 1800. The children were: Julia, who married Adam Steck and had six children; Robert M., who married Fannie Crawford and had five children; Hugh, Jr., who married Susanna Bechdel and had ten children; Eliza, who married John Bowman; Martha, who married Robert Shaw, her cousin; William W., who married Mary Bechdel and had five children; and Hiram, who married (1) Clarissa Haslett and (2) Sarah Crull and lived at Sugar Creek, Venango County. .

Michael Brickley (died 1831) and his wife Mary (Helman) Brickley had these seven children, all born in the very early 1800's: John, Mary Magdalene, Jacob, David, Lydia, Samuel and Sarah (all Biblical names).

Efforts to obtain the names of additional complete families, such as the Masdens, Ruperts, Gunsalluses, Rorabaughs, Liggets and others, were not successful.

FAMILY UNITS

Lists of persons who headed households that were established prior to 1900 have been arranged by groups, starting in 1810. However, this is not an all-inclusive listing. Some of the families were of local formation, meaning local intermarriages, while others represented complete newcomers to the area. Maiden names, where identified, were usually difficult to obtain, requiring considerable research. In some instances, especially for the very early lists, even the given names of some settlers' wives could not be learned.

1810 TO 1820

Ross and Jane (Gardner) Baker, James and John Clark, James and Rebecca (Myers) Gardner, John Helman, Moses Leitch, Andrew, Sr., and Martha (Polk) Linn, David McCloskey, John Mann, John Rorabaugh, John and Elizabeth Rupert, Mathias and Jane Wagner and Michael Wantz.

1820 TO 1830

John and Elizabeth Boone, Jacob and Margaret (DeLong) Brickley, John Brickley, Campbell and Elizabeth (Kunes) DeLong, George Forringer, Samuel and Elizabeth (Lucas) Gardner, Washington and Jane (Austin) Gardner, John and Jane (Packer) Haines, Frederick and Elizabeth Glossner, Jacob Kunes, John and Nancy (Gardner) Kunes, Paul and Mary (Spohn) Lingle, Thomas and Rachel Linn, Isaac McGhee, Israel and Caroline Nestlerode, John and Sarah Packer, John and Barbara (Schenck) Pletcher, Hugh, Sr., and Martha (Montgomery) Shaw, Jonas and Mary (Kunes) Spangler, John Swartz, Peter and Mary Sullenberger, John and Hannah Wantz, John and Christena Winkleman.

1830 TO 1840

David and Christena (Workinger) Bechdel, John and Sarah (DeLong) Bechdel, Maines and Margaret (Sheets) Bowes, John T. and Mary (Boone) Clark, John Council, Marmaduke and Susan (Packer) Crock, David and Elizabeth (Bechdel) DeLong, Jacob and Elizabeth (Ghoul) Glossner (her second husband was James Sayers), James and Molly (Masden) Gunsallus (second wife was Sarah Masden), John and Rachel (Baker) Haines, Isaac and Isabelle Hall, Daniel and Mary (Bechdel) Kunes (second wife was Elizabeth Potts), David and Rebecca (David) Kunes, Samuel and Elizabeth (Chatham) Kunes, Andrew, Jr., and Barbara (Leathers) Linn, Austin and July (Packer) Leonard, Matthew and Jane (Hays) Leitch, John and Susanna (Neff) Ligget, Joseph and Sarah Montgomery, John and Mary Miller, Frederick and Elizabeth (Furst) Runner, John Shearer, Michael and Susan (Brickley) Schenck, Hugh, Jr., and Susan (Bechdel) Shaw, Michael and Frances (Bartholomew) Swartz, John and Rachel (McCloskey) Thompson, James and Mary (Martin) Wagner, Michael and Elizabeth Wantz, John and Elizabeth Workman.

1840 TO 1850

Christian (III) and Lydia (Bechdel) Bechdel, Christian D. and Rebecca (Askey) Bechdel, Jacob and Isabella (Confer) Bechdel, Samuel and Mary (DeLong) Bechdel, Daniel and Mary (Wensel) Bitner, Joseph and Sarah (Bechdel) Bumgardner, Jacob and Sarah J. Boone, James and Henrietta (DeHaas) Chatham, Jacob and Molly (Confer) Confer, David F. and Prudence (Bennett) Confer, Abraham and Nancy (Rogers) Courter, John P. and Hannah (Morrison) DeHaas, Jonathan and Frances (Bumgardner) DeLong, Jacob and Elizabeth (Minnick) Dietz, Henry and Elizabeth Forringer, Joseph and

Nancy Galbraith, Ephraim Green and Hannah (Kunes) Gardner (second wife was Jane Ross), Andrew J. and Catharine (Lucas) Gardner, Mitchell and Catharine Gardner, William and Rhoda (Council) Gardner, Henry and Maria (Packer) Glossner, Elisha and Lydia Graham, Jesse and Martha (Boone) Haines, Joseph and Sarah (Schenck) Hall, Jacob, Jr., and Catharine (Pletcher) Holter, Henry and Magdalena (Pletcher) Holter, Clinton and Maria (Gunsallus) James and Christian and Caroline (Stalich) Kunes.

Also Henry and Julia Ann Kunes, James G. and Beulah Kunes, Alexander and Lydia (Clemson) Lingle, Joseph and Elizabeth (Harvey) Lingle, Simon and Susanna (Kunes) Lingle, Roland and Phoebe Lucas, Nathan and Nancy (Gardner) Lucas, George and Matilda (Wagner) Metzger, David and Mary (Mann) McCloskey, Christian and Mary (Martin) Nestlerode, Jesse and Sarah (Swisher) Packer, Daniel and Elizabeth (Barker) Pletcher, Peter and Sarah Riter, John and Mary Robb, Harmon and Mary (Swartz) Robb, Barnard and Elizabeth J. (Hanna) Rupert, Christian and Lydia (Bower) Schenck, James and Elizabeth (Rorabaugh) Shearer, Thomas and Anna (Lewis) Smith, Peter and Anna Sollars, Solomon Strong, William and Catharine Wagner, George and Margaret (Lucas) Wantz, Jacob and Elizabeth (King) Wetzler, George and Susan (Quiggle) Williams, Ann (Lingle) Williams (widow), Joseph White and George Young.

1850 TO 1860

Daniel and Mary (Rorabaugh) Bechdel, Abraham and Martha (Trexler) Bitner, George and Sarah (Hoover) Bowes, Thomas and Susan (Robb) Bowes, Samuel and Mary J. Brickley, William and Margaret Buck, Charles and Nancy Courter, William F. and Matilda (Potts) Courter, Horatio and Sophia DeHaas, James I. and Ellen (Gardner) DeLong (second wife was Lettie Gardner), Henry and Mary (Bumgardner) Foresman, Arthur and Elizabeth Foresman, Cornelius and Elizabeth (Burd) Galbraith, James Irvin and Catharine (Rose) Garnder, John Dolan and Maria Garnder (second wife was Esther Miller), W. Scott and Lydia (Graham) Gardner, James W. and Sarah J. Gunsallus (second wife was Margaret Wensel), David and Lydia (Robb) Gunsallus, John and Martha (Linn) Gunsallus and George and Margaret Haines. Also Samuel H. and Clarissa A. (Masden) Kunes, Ira and Sarah Hall, David and Margaret (Jacobs) Hendricks, Daniel and Rebecca Herring (second wife was widow Mary Kline), Charles and Martha (Bitner) Johnston, Joseph and Agnes (Reilly) Kunes, William and Frances (Bechdel) Kunes, Benjamin and Sarah (Adams) Ligget, John and Hannah Ligget, James and Marcella (Malone) Lingle, John and Martha (Shaw) Lingle, Thomas and Susan (Williams) Lingle, George and Jane E. (Courter) Long, James and

Isabella (Fox) Lucas, Robert and Lydia (DeLong) Mann (Lydia's second husband was Charles Jones), Robert and Jane Martin, John and Susan Mincer, Daniel and Frances (Swartz) Nestlerode, John and Maria (Swartz) Nestlerode, Ezra and Mary (Brickley) Overton, Widow Potts and son Israel, Rev. William and Catherine Ridge (second wife was widow Annie E. Shank), Emanuel and Sarah (Bechdel) Rupert, Michael and Mary (McCloskey) Schenck, Thomas and Margaret Shearer, William F. and Margaret (Marshall) Snyder, Hiram and Lucinda (Courter) Spangler, Levi and Mary (Wagner) Sullenberger, Joseph and Anna Wagner, John and Rebecca (Bechdel) Williams (second wife was widow Elizabeth Daughenbaugh Bowes), Joseph and Bethsheba (Gardner) Williams and George and Susan (DeLong) Winslow (Susan's second husband was Jonathan Abbott), Joseph and Susan H. (Bechdel) Wagner and Thomas S. and Sarah E. (DeLong) Winslow (second wife was Sarah A. Bumgardner, a cousin of Sarah DeLong).

1860 To 1870

John W. and Anna R. Baker, John A. and Mary Elizabeth (Rupert) Bechdel, William and Matilda (Snyder) Bechdel, N. Mitchell and Lizzie (Orner) Bitner, Charles and Mary J. (Graham) Bolopue, Michael and Mary Boob, James and Sarah (Bechdel) Bowes, Cyrus and Hettie (Spangler) Bowman, Samuel and Mary Bowmaster, John and Mary (Kunes) Bridgens, David and Rebecca (McCloskey) Bumgardner, John and Jane E. (Wilson) Burd, Martin and Mary Campbell, Richard and Frances (Sharp) Campbell, Joseph and Mary Casselberry, Jacob and Anna Crotzer, David and Eliza J. (Potts) DeLong, Michael and Mary (Wantz) Fravel, Henry Kirk and Charity (Miller) Graham, Jacob and Elizabeth (Lighthamer) Glossner, Samuel and Lydia (Shaw) Glossner (second wife was Rebecca Fearon), John and Sarah (Bechdel) Heverly (first wife, Emily Moore died in 1868) and Wesley and Sarah J. (Kunes) Heverly.

Also James G. and Mary E. (Bechdel) James (second wife was Martha Lannen), Nathan and Rebecca (Bechdel) James (brothers married sisters), Charles and Anna (Trexler) Johnston (second wife was Mary Stoler), Uriah and Sarah (McCloskey) Kitchen, William and Caroline (Wheeler) Kline, Daniel and Mary (Mapes) Kunes, Daniel D. and Sarah Elizabeth (Bechdel) Kunes, David and Rebecca (David) Kunes, James and Mary (Stover) Kunes, J. Irvin and Margaret Ellen (Graham) Kunes, Fisher D. and Harriet E. Ligget, James and Margaret Ellen (Berryhill) Lingle and John W. and Lydia E. (Courter) Long.

Also William and Sarah E. McElhattan, John and Mary (Clark) Mapes, Alexander and Albina (Cottle) Masden, Jonathan and Ellen S. Mitchell, Joseph and Mary Anna (Bechdel) Pletcher, Israel and Elizabeth Potts, James and Mary (Shaw) Quigley, George and Rebecca (Thomas) Regal, Daniel and Rebecca (Kunes) Robb, David and Lavina (Masden) Robb, Frederick and Mary (Uhl) Robb (second wife

was Hannah Heaton), John and Hannah (Wagner) Robb, Christian and Ann (Smith) Rorabaugh, J. Richard and Sarah J. (Kunes) Runner, William and Candace (Ridge) Rupert, William and Catharine (Bitner) Scantlin, David B. and Catharine (Schenck) Schenck, Irvin and Elizabeth Jane (Bechdel) Schenck, James and Lucinda Searle, Joseph and Josephine (Mapes) Shaw, John and Emily (Williams) Shaw, Thomas and Sarah Jane (Shaw) Skilman, Joseph and Susan (Wantz) Smith, Jacob and Susan (Johnston) Snyder, Henry and Susan (Linn) Snyder, Jonas, Jr., and Mary E. (Gunsallus) Spangler, William and Hannah (Hulsizer) Stull, Joseph and Sarah E. (Swartz) Swartz, John D. and Mary J. (Oyler) Thompson, David and Hannah (Lucas) Wagner, John and Mary Weaver and Joseph and Lavina (Johnston) Winslow.

1870 TO 1890

William and Bertha Batschelet, John C. and Mary Catharine (Lingle) Bathurst, Robert and Mary (Spangler) Beaty, David S. and Ida (Treaster) Bechdel, James and Margaret (Winslow) Bechdel, Joseph and Emeline (Haines) Bechdel, S. Alfred and Mary Jane (Mitchell) Bechdel, Thomas J. and Clara (Bitner) Bechdel, George S. and Cora (Snyder) Berryhill, Howard W. and Frances (Johnson) Bitner, Ira C. and Susan (Kunes) Bitner, J. Albert and Carrie (Gardner) Bitner, William N. and Mary (Herring) Bitner (second wife was widow Mary Caroline Lucas Bitner, whose third husband was Daniel Glossner), Daniel and Elizabeth (Bechdel) Boob, Harvey J. and Lorena (Smith) Boone, Andrew C. and Hannah M. (Wantz) Bowes, Franklin and Catharine Brown, D. Marshall and Mary (Campbell) Burlew, J. Irvin and Martha (Stull) Clark, Lemuel and Nancy (Gladfelter) Clark, W. Barney and Mary J. (Slack) Coder, D. Dobbin and Matilda (Slacker) Confer and David R. and Margaret (Uhl) Confer.

Also Joseph and Prudence (Confer) Council, Warren and Alice (James) Council, James and Orpha (Lucas) Clark, Girard and Lydia Courter, David and Sarah Amelia (Shearer) Cox, Charles L. and Minnie Crotzer, S. Creighton and Emma (DeHaas) Crotzer (second wife was Maud Dunkle), Gideon and Amelia DeHaas, Philip and Sarah (Wagner) DeHaas, Jacob and Margaret (Bowes) DeLong, Charles and Hattie (Kunes) Duffield, George and Laura (Hendricks) Eckard, James and Mary (Kunes) Egan, William and Mary (Runner) Fowler, Napoleon and Ellen (David) Gangnon, Boston and Emma Gardner, Edward N. and Mary Ellen (Lingle) Gardner, Ephraim and Lenna (Smith) Gardner and James and Sarah Matilda (Spangler) Gardner.

Also William H. and Emily P. (Gardner) Gardner, William H. and Harriet Gardner, James B. and Melissa (Williams) Gunsallus, James and Priscilla (Hubbard) Gunsallus, Daniel and Lydia (Snyder) Glossner, Harry and Della (Stover) Glossner, Alfred and Sudie (Rupert) Graham, Robert and Margaret Grater, Ira and Abbie (Lucas)

Gunsallus, Samuel and Dora (McKean) Haines, William and M. Alice (Bitner) Harter, Charles and Mary (Confer) Heichel, William and Sarah (Wantz) Hendricks, John and Eliza (Winklebleck) Herr, Edward and Myrtle (Williams) Heverly, James and Clara (Nestlerode) Hunter, John and Frederica (Smith) Hunter, William and Rebecca (McCloskey) James, N. Henderson and Jennie (Gunsallus) Johnston, William B. and Ada (LLewellyn) Johnston, Henry Frank and Anna (Nestlerode) Kessinger, J. Albert and Mary (Spangler) Kunes, John Irvin and Matilda (Smith) Kunes and John C. and Agnes Jane (Gardner) Kunes.

Also Samuel R. (Long Division) and Ellen (Overton) Kunes, Wesley and Emma (Strunk) Kunes, David and Margaret Ellen (Hendricks) Kunes, J. Polk and H. Sophia (Stover) Linn, John V. and Susan (Holter) Loder, George and Agnes Long, Albert and Lucy (Mason) Loomis, John and Cora (Gardner) Lyons, George W. and Margaret (Thiel) Mann, John and Margaret (Confer) McKean, James C. and Maggie McCloskey, Jesse and Elizabeth (Wagner) McCloskey, J. Leonard and Emily (Bitner) Metzger, Lewis C. and Hannah (Wagner) Miller, Lewis W. and Caroline (Workman) Miller, Daniel and Clara (McKissick) Nestlerode, William and Eunice (Riter) Moon, John Alfred and Jennie (Mann) Nestlerode, John and Kate (Hayes) Oyler (second wife was Tillie Holter), William and Flotilla (Bolopue) Packer, George W. and Annie E. (Bechdel) Page, Henry and Lizzie (Poorman) Ridge, Virgil and Anna (Purdy) Ridge, Christian and Marjorie (Stover) Robb, Barney and Sarah (McCloskey) Rupert and Albert and Nancy (Holter) Schenck (second wife was Rose Holter).

Also Frederick and Amanda (Beck) Schenck, C. Bower and Mary Ann (Holter) Schenck, J. Hayes and Clara (Smith) Schenck, William P. and Lucy (Holter) Schenck, William and Mary (Bechdel) Singer, David and Mary Catharine (Kunes) Smith (David's second wife was widow Catharine Heimer), James A. and Frances (Kunes) Smith, Thomas and Elizabeth (Nestlerode) Smith, Thompson and Harriet (Brady) Snyder, William and Laura (Spray) Snyder, Nathan and Mary E. (Reedy) Spangler, John, Jr., and Virginia (Hayes) Stover, Franklin and Margaret (Bechdel) Stover, Daniel and Mary (Snyder) Strawcutter, Lee and Carrie (Kunes) Stricker, William and Anna (Grove) Strunk, John and Clara (Lucas) Stull, Jacob and Amanda (Saxton) Swartz, Mitchell and Maggie Swartz, Henry and Anna (Holter) Thompson, John and Lillie (Gross) Thompson, Thomas and Mary Catharine (Ulis) Uhl, Irvin and Sarah Agnes (Weaver) Wagner, Harvey and Clara (Bartley) Walker, William and Anna (Bechdel) Wallace, Henry and Mary (Mincer) Weaver, Isaac and Catharine (Holter) Williams, Charles and Florence (Swartz) White and Edward and Sarah (Campbell) Winslow.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Committee members:

Mabel Bortot
Beth Confer
Barbara Kelly
Harry Lingle
Judy Long
Kathryn Long
William Long
Helen Murtorff
Fay Spangler

Rathmell Photography

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Glenn & Jean Bechdel
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Beech Creek National Bank
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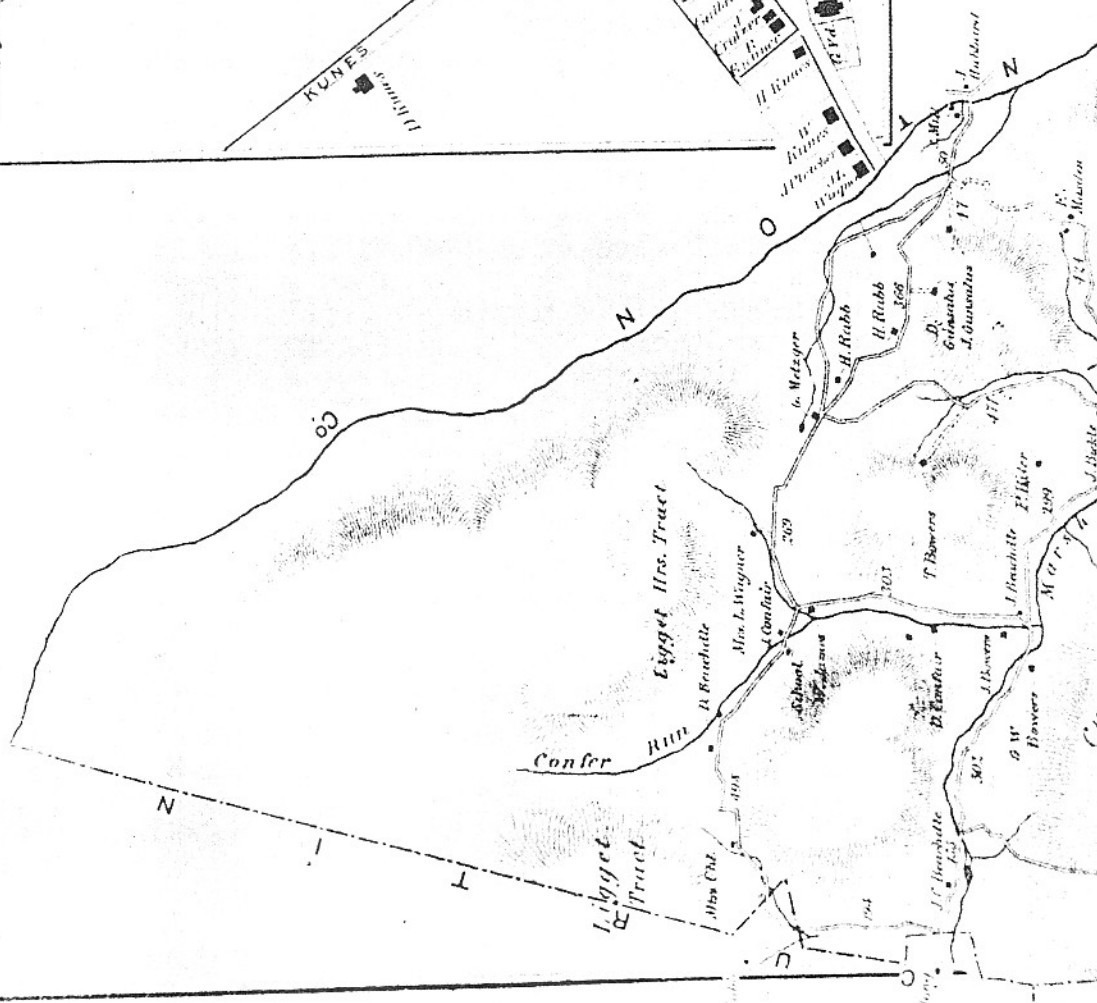
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 Karen Lamey & daughters Melissa & Jennifer
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 Lydia C. Miller
 Walter & Josephine Miller
 Earl, Lois, Randal & Arlen Moore
 Mrs. Eva Moore
 Sonny, Chrissey, Brenda & Rhonda Motter
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 Tom, Ruth, Cindy & Tom Myers
 Calvin & Leona O'Donnell
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 Ron, Gale, Ronnie & Nicole Spangler
 Russell D. & Hulda O. Spangler
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 "Fergie" & Alice Stabley
 Fred W. Steininger
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 P. Lester & Wilda Sullenberger & Lester
 Guy & Clara Belle Swartz
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 Gary & Donna Gardner Thomas
 John L. & Margaret S. Thomas
 Bob & Lois Thompson
 Roy & Katie Thompson Family
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 The Gerald Wagner Family
 Paul & Marie Waite
 Chester, Virginia, Sherri & Jane Walker
 Miles & Jacque Watkins, Misty & Corey
 Lillian Ruth Weaver & Betty Lou Weaver
 Pat, Dick, Rich, Stanna, Danita, Teala Weaver & Virginia Johnson
 Richard T. & Ethel M. Weaver & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Welch & Family
 Tim, Phyllis & Jamie Welch
 Relda P. White
 Mrs. Erma Williams & Family
 Mrs. John Williams & Bruce
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Williams & Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson
 Walter & Clare Bolopue Winslow, Douglas, Michael, Jill
 Mr. & Mrs. Blair Young, Jr. & Family

ACETYLENE

LIBERTY TWP Ohio

Scale 25: Odds to the lock.

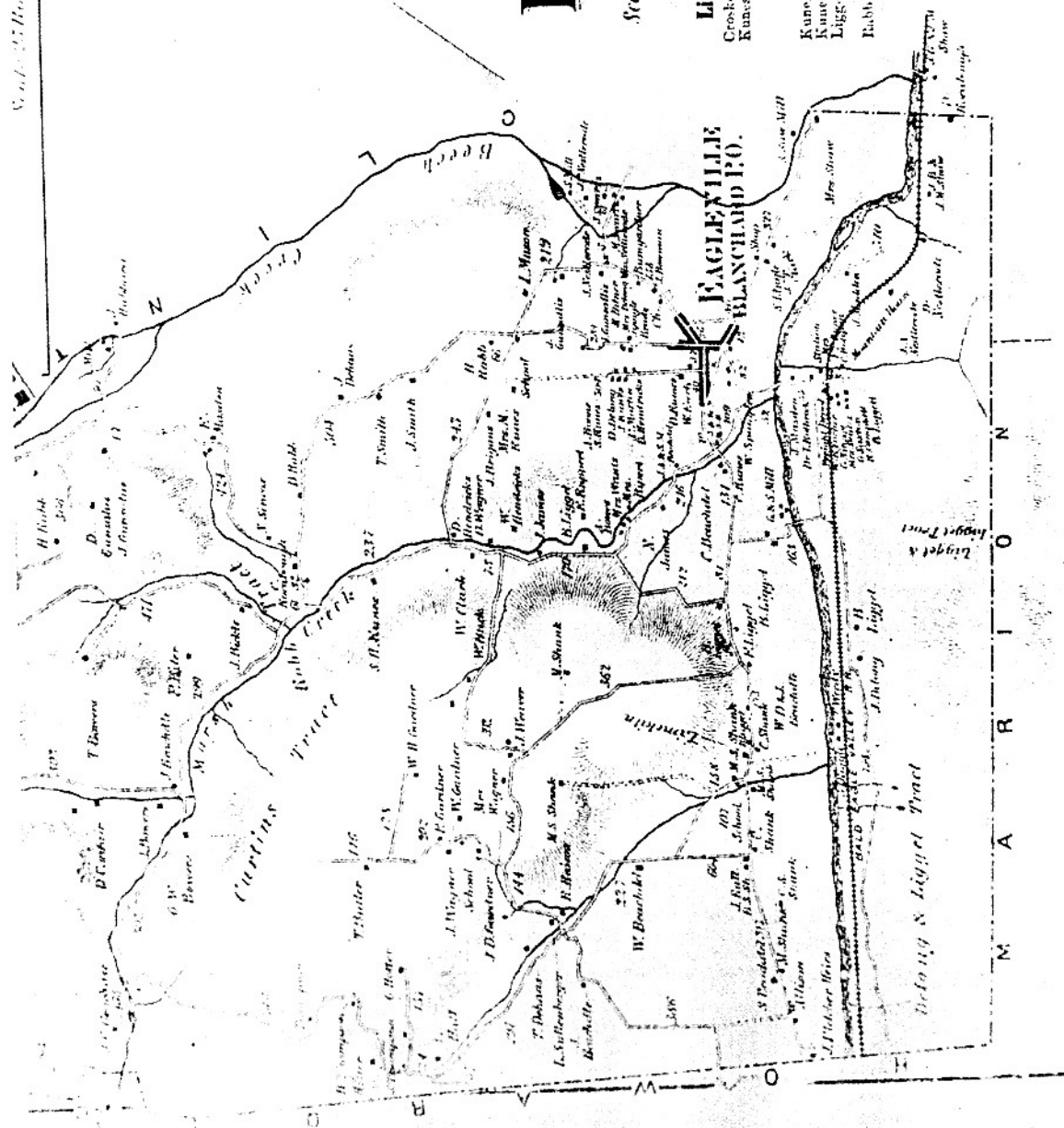
LIBBY

Scale 200 rods to the inch.

Liberty Township Business Notices.

Crocker, Harry, Wagon and Carriage Builder.
Kunes, J. A. D. B., Dealers in Dry Goods, at corner,
1150 1/2 Ave. 10th, Cape, City, and Paul, Har-
ware, notions, provisions and General Merchandise.

Kunes Jos. B., Proprietor Eagle Lake House.
Kunes Elizabeth, Proprietor Mountain House.
Liggatt, Helong A. Co., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries,
Hardware, Drugs and General Merchandise.
Rabb David, Farmer and Lumberman.



The following account of a baseball game played in Blanchard on July 19, 1871, was published by the Democratic Watchman, Bellefonte, on July 28, 1871:

Blanchard Snow Flakes

D. M. (Marshall) Burlew	catcher
F. (H. Frank) Kessinger	pitcher
J. (James) Bumgardner	shortstop
S. (Samuel) Kunes	first base
M. (Mitchell) Bechdel	second base
W. (William) Spangler	third base
H. (Harvey) Kunes	right field
C. (Cyrus) Bowman	center field
A. (Alfred) Graham	left field

Beech Creek Eureka Club

G. (George) Hastings
W. (William) Rothrock
F. (Frank) Quigley
H. (Henry) Williams
J. (James) Rothrock
E. (Everett) Packer
A. (Allison) Williams
Q. (Quigg) Clark
W. (William) Kessinger

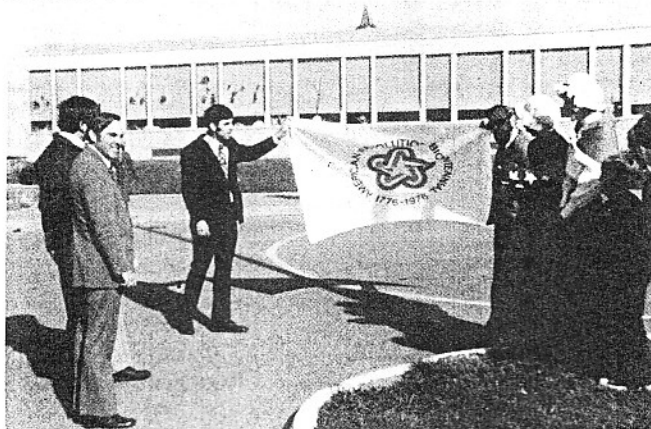
Final score: Blanchard 74, Beech Creek 24. Time of game: 4 hours. Umpire: C. (Clyde) Brown of Beech Creek. Scorers: J. (John) Trexler for Beech Creek, H. Robb for Blanchard.

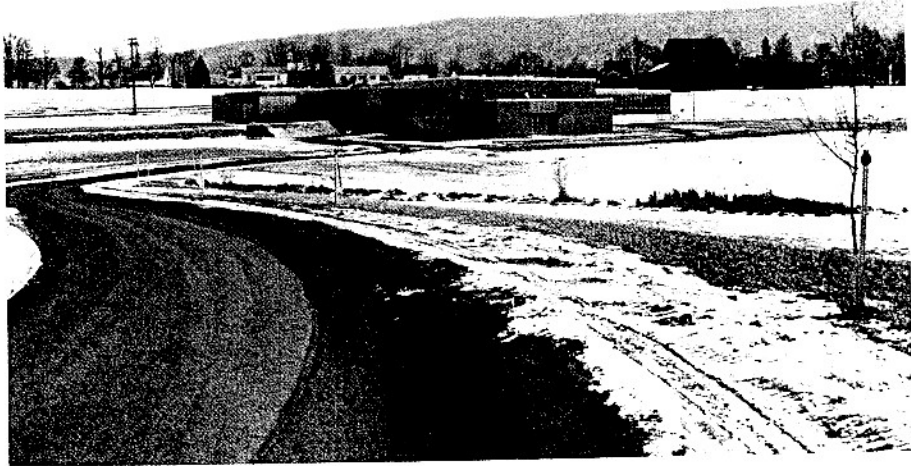
BICENTENNIAL FLAG GIVEN TO LIBERTY TWP.

In a brief ceremony on October 31, 1975, the Liberty-Curtin Elementary School was the setting for the official Bicentennial flag and certificate presentation to Liberty Township.

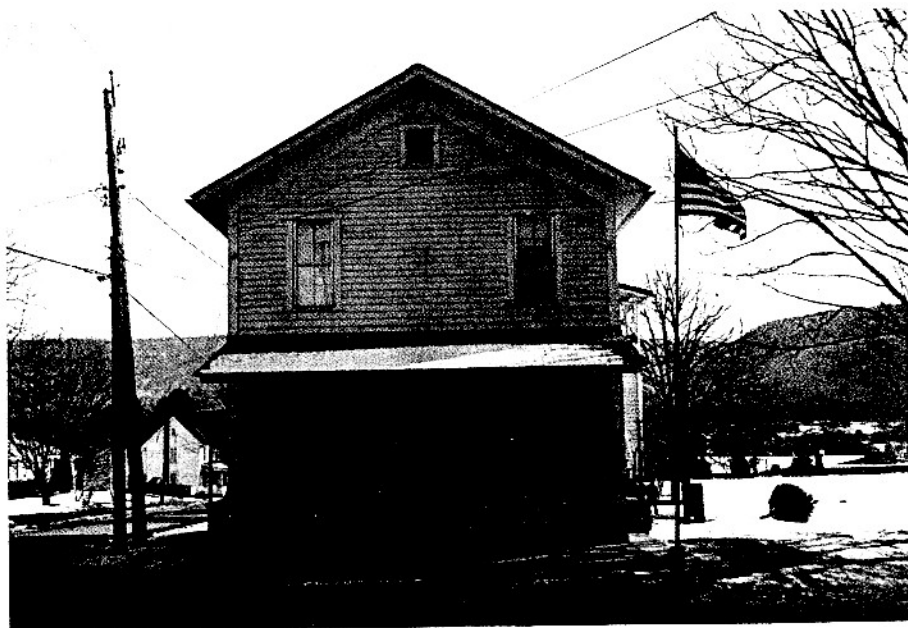
Doyle Corman, Centre County Commissioner, presented the certificate of designation to Robert Beaty, Liberty Township Supervisor. Chuck Mong, chairman for the Centre County Bicentennial Committee, presented the flag to township supervisor William Long. Bobbi Jo Peter and Mark Healy, representing the area's scouting organizations, raised the American and the official ARBA flags, while the Bald Eagle Nittany Junior High Band played an appropriate number.

Additional guests present for the ceremony were Mrs. Kay Webster, secretary of the Centre County Bicentennial Commission, and Centre County controller Donald Asendorf.

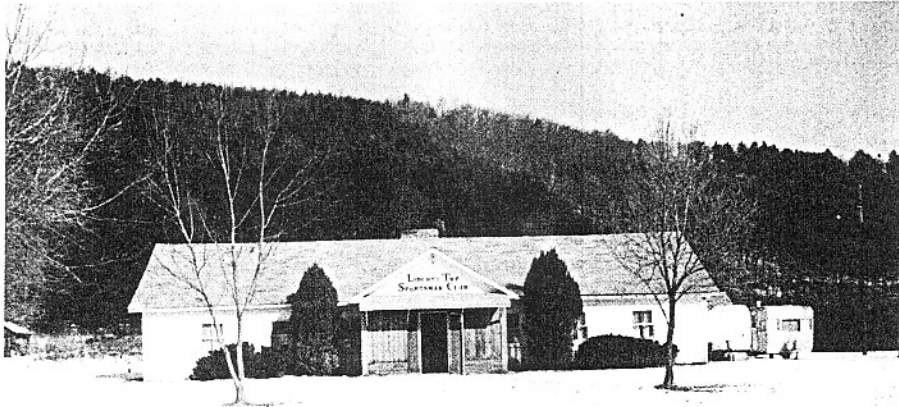




LIBERTY-CURTIN ELEMENTARY IN 1976



BLANCHARD POSTOFFICE IN 1976



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SPORTSMAN CLUB IN 1976



OLD MAIN STREET SCENE



MONUMENT RESIDENTS OF YESTERYEAR



Eagleville Tn. St.

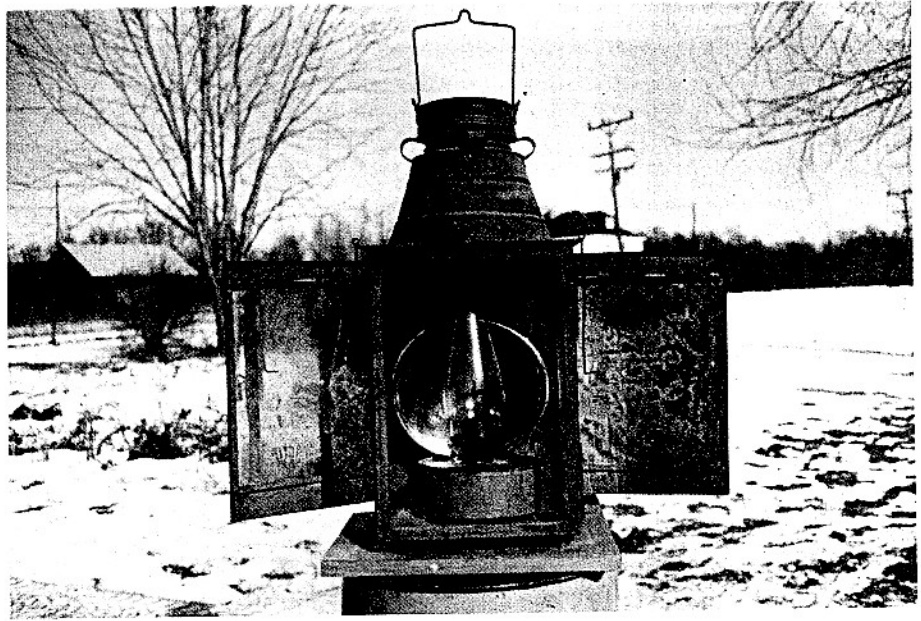
EAGLEVILLE MAIN STREET SCENE



FORMER VILLAGE INN
(taken in 1976)



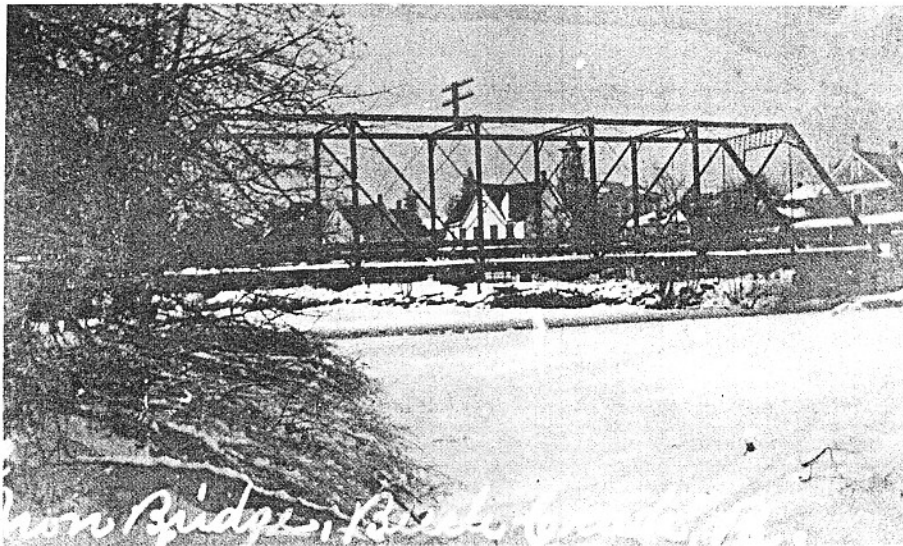
ORIGINAL VILLAGE INN SIGN



OLD CANAL BOAT LANTERN



BELL FROM STEAM ENGINE



Iron Bridge, Blanchard, Pa.



VIEW FROM BRIDGE, Blanchard, Pa.

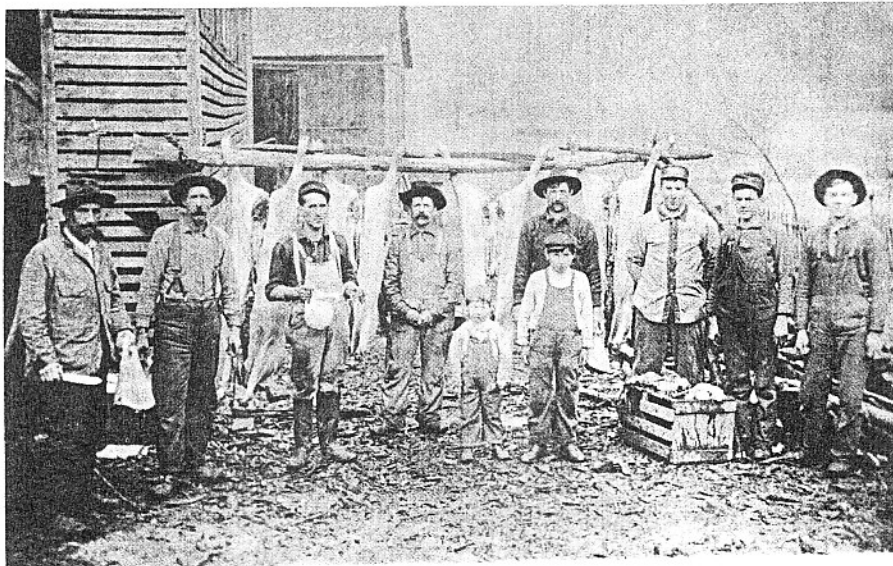


NESTLERODE CEMETERY IN 1976





BUTCHERING SCENES





FARMING - Approximately 50 years ago



FIRST GRANGE MEETING



SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC
(Eaton's Grove)